Man found guilty of 7 traffic violations. PAGE 2
Quichocho: $15M allocated for South Korea. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 210

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Palacios, Apatang team up

» Campaign slogan is 'Rebuilding Trust'

Palacios

Apatang

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the campaign slogan "Rebuilding Trust," Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang officially declared yesterday afternoon their candidacies as governor and lieutenant governor respectively, in the November 2022 election.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

PORT CALL
BRIAN STRICKLAND
The USS *Frank Cable* (AS-40), an Emory S. Land-class submarine tender, docked at the Port of Saipan yesterday for a port call and was accompanied by an unnamed submarine (shown in this photo taken from the Inos Peace Park) that was seen floating just off the Saipan port. The vessel was reportedly on an R&R (rest and recreation) stop on Saipan. The unannounced visit touched off a flurry of speculations on social media.

TOGETHER, WE CAN

BY EDNA GRACE NISOLA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edna Grace Nisola serves on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' public relations team and manages GCEA's Public Private Partnership program, which has grown to include more than 60 private partners and 60 sites throughout the Marianas. Nisola is the public relations officer for TanHoldings Corp. The GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

There are many MVPs to recognize this week

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

This past week, if you passed through Beach Road and Garapan Middle Road, you would've noticed a significant difference in how clean and refreshed they appeared. Thanks to the fresh

See THERE on Page 4

FDA OKs mixing COVID vaccines; backs Moderna, J&J booster shots

This Dec. 23, 2020 file photo shows a vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in the first round of staff vaccinations at a hospital in Denver. AP

By MATTHEW PERRONE and LAURAN NEERGAARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— U.S. regulators on Wednesday signed off on extending COVID-19 boosters to Americans who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine and said anyone eligible for an extra dose can get a brand different from the one they received initially.

The Food and Drug Administration's decisions mark a big step toward expanding the U.S. booster campaign, which

See FDA on Page 4

INSIDE

Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement, "Embracing CSR in the Time of the Pandemic," starting on *PAGE 9*

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:09pm, Oct. 21, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	83.2%
Days since last community transmission	211

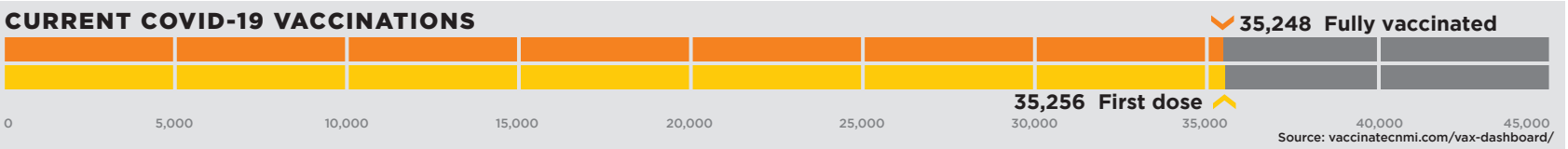
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	30,373
Fully Vaccinated:	29,710
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,883
Fully Vaccinated:	4,717
Janssen	
Fully Vaccinated:	821

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	17,276	103	17,379
Recovered	14,360	438	14,798
Active	2,252	103	2,355
Deaths	226	0	226

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	289	0	289
Traced via Travel Screening	252	0	252
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	3	0	3

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is an inclusive political organization and in keeping with its bylaws is accepting Nominations of Candidates, and Letters of Intent from any individuals interested in seeking election, for any of these public offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and CNMI Delegate to US Congress. Nominations and Letters of Intent for these offices must be addressed to Nola Kileleman Hix, Chairwoman of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands via email at chairwoman@nmidems.org. All such letters must be received on or before Nov 1, 2021. Visit www.nmidems.org for sample letter and more info.

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Local

Man found guilty of 7 traffic violations

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who was arrested back in December 2020 for over 10 traffic violations was found guilty of seven.

After a two-day bench trial last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo found Benster S. Benjamin, 20, guilty of driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, speeding, refusal to submit to a breath test, reckless driving-bodily injury/property damage, fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, and failure to obey a traffic signal.

However, Benjamin was found not guilty of six other charges, including driving while under the combined influence of alcohol and drugs, false report, driving without a license, failure to wear a seatbelt, open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, and failure to remain at the scene of an accident.

Benjamin was ordered to return to court on Jan. 6, 2022, at 1:30pm for his sentencing.

According court documents, the incident occurred in the evening of Dec. 24, 2020 when police officer saw a white Toyota Prius swerving and travelling south at high speed.

Benjamin initially denied the allegations but later confessed that he was the driver of the vehicle.

Police reports stated that officers attempted to conduct a violator stop when they spotted the vehicle but Benjamin refused to stop and continued travelling south at high speed.

During the chase, Benjamin hit three other cars while continuing to elude the police, even disobeying a red traffic signal light and speeding.

Benjamin's car rear-ended another vehicle on Beach Road, Chalan Laulau before running off the road and knocking down a speed limit sign post and a pathway lamppost, before the vehicle flipped over.

Responding police officers saw five individuals crawl out of the wreckage before running in a southwest direction toward a nearby beach but officers managed to apprehended the five.

Police also found an unconscious individual with serious injuries next to the Toyota Prius and he was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center by Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services medics.

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Quichocho: $15M allocated for South Korea

MVA's Japan travel program closer to realization

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority board member Ivan Quichocho, who chairs the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan for Korea, disclosed Wednesday that $15 million of the American Rescue Plan Act funds was allocated for the implementation of the program for Korea, while $7 million was set aside for Japan, and $8 million has been allocated for other destinations.

In the MVA's presentation on the TRIP program before the House of Representatives Commerce and Tourism Committee, Quichocho said MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo wanted to lobby for the same amount for Japan but when they looked at the rollout for the CNMI's opening for travel, South Korea was ahead.

In response to a question from committee chair Rep. Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan) why Korea's allocation is bigger than Japan's, Quichocho said a significant amount of that budget was used on the ground here for the hybrid quarantine corridor, referring to the two hotels in the CNMI—Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Kensington Hotel Saipan—where arriving Korean tourists would stay for the first five days while awaiting their test results.

Quichocho said their next target actually is Japan, and this is closer to realization soon. He said they still do want to go after equal funding for Japan, but at this point, they need to see where Japan is and put together a game plan for that.

He said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, who chairs the MVA TRIP Japan ad hoc committee, is currently in Japan not only for the good news about Hyatt's new 40-year land lease, but that he is also starting meetings and discussions with travel partners as well as some government officials.

TRIP, which was implemented in July 2021, is a collaborative creation of the MVA, the administration, key travel industry stakeholders, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., COVID-19 Task Force, and other agencies. It provides financial incentives to airlines, hotels, tour agencies, etc. in a bid to gradually revive the Marianas tourism economy.

At the same presentation, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo said the CNMI's three primary travel markets are South Korea, Japan, and China and so when they were still working on implementing TRIP, they also had to consider these countries' COVID-19 conditions. At that time, South Korea was primarily the most stable in controlling their confirmed COVID-19 case, Iakopo said.

She said those were one of the considerations that they thought about but they also continue to have discussions with Japan through their travel partners and the MVA Japan office. She said that Japan has asked MVA to be patient as they work to ease their COVID-19 situation.

Iakopo said this was also why the MVA board created the ad hoc committees: to have this constant communication with the source markets and to monitor the COVID-19 situations in these countries. She said the board wants to ensure that when the CNMI is ready to start opening up to other markets, they want to keep that momentum of having tourists come in here and not test positive, ensuring that the community is safe.

Iakopo clarified that TRIP travelers must have a negative PCR test within 72-hours before boarding their flight to the Marianas, take a test when they land on Saipan and stay in their rooms for 24 hours until the result is negative.

She said the travelers must be quarantined for five days while they use the facilities at the hybrid-resort.

She said the travelers will only be released to the community after a third negative test on Day 5.

If anytime a visitor tests positive, she said, they would be brought to Kanoa Resort.

Iakopo said hotel employees are also required to quarantine at the resort during these five days.

She said to be able to contact-trace them quickly if needed after release from quarantine, they have limited them to letting them stay at a corridor hotel after quarantine. Right now, that is the Saipan World Resort.

She said the CNMI's exposure as a safe destination in South Korea has been tremendous and bookings have been so strong that airlines have been reaching out to fly more or have new flights to the Marianas. This mean that if they add more air seats, they will need more rooms for quarantine.

She said they are now addressing this need and have received proposals from three hotels totaling about 350 rooms to also become hybrid-resort quarantine facilities.

"If all goes well, we hope to have them online in the new few weeks so we can advise the travel agencies and airlines and confirm more bookings," she said.

Iakopo said the contracts will need to go through the procurement process.

MVA approves self-care leave

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board approved last week the self-care leave policy, similar to the policy implemented by the Commonwealth Ports Authority board back in September.

In an interview with MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, she said that implementing the self-care leave would benefit MVA's staff who work tirelessly, especially during large community events like the Taste of the Marianas. Iakopo said it gives employees a chance to take at least a day off to rejuvenate themselves and return to work recharged.

"MVA staff work day in and day out. Whether it's weekends, evenings, or holidays, we are working. One example most recently would be the Taste of the Marianas. Every employee at MVA was working Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday night, and all reported to work on Monday. There was no day for rest. So it's just for us to basically to give ourselves a rest, mentally and physically, and come back the next day rejuvenated and refreshed," she said.

When asked about the concerns brought up by MVA board member Marian Aldan-Pierce in last September's meeting about the additional cost to implement the new leave policy, Iakopo said it was determined that it wouldn't be a problem.

"Actually, we did look into that. It's not an additional expense. We see it as just as if any of the employees was going on leave," she said.

When she first raised the idea of enforcing a self-care leave program at MVA, similar to CPA's, Iakopo said: "We saw in the paper that CPA had definitely adopted this self-care leave, to cope with stress and [to take care of] our state of mind. Not just that, it's also [about] productivity and just overall job satisfaction and we really like the idea that CPA has taken the initiative to push this forward."

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ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC. Plaintiff -v- ALFONSO R. DELA CRUZ, Defendant.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0023

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 19, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

That certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Dandan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, designated as part of Lot 029 H 01 (H-169), more particularly described as follows:

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Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 5, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

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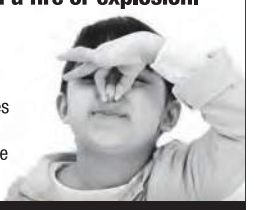

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PALACIOS

From Page 1

"We can no longer keep quiet. And I know many of you have shared your thoughts. Many of you may not have shared your thoughts with us but we know deep down in our heart, we know where are you at, where we are at today," said Palacios, who is a Republican, in his speech at the Minachom Atdao.

Apatang delivered his speech in Chamorro. In a written statement provided to the media, he stated that the CNMI deserves leaders that are trustworthy.

"We deserve a Commonwealth that is clean, safe, and vibrant, where we can expect economic growth without sacrificing our cultural and social values," Apatang said.

Palacios' and Apatang's family members and supporters attended the ceremony.

Palacios and Apatang will be running as independent candidates "at this point."

In separate interview yesterday, Palacios said he is not closing the door to the Democratic Party, which has invited them to submit a letter of intent to run. Apatang, however, appears to be less optimistic, believing that nothing will come out with talks with the Democratic Party and that they will indeed run on an independent slate.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had already announced his intent to seek re-election with Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan) as his running mate.

In his remarks yesterday, Palacios said they took a lot of time to reflect on their decision as it wasn't easy. He said he also reflected on how it would impact his relationship with Torres as the lieutenant governor.

"Nevertheless, Dave and I made a decision after sitting down with many family members older than us, younger than us, and listening to their advice," Palacios said.

He said they eventually decided to offer the community an alternative to the present system.

Palacios acknowledges that many people have lost confidence in many of those who are running the government and that includes himself and Apatang. "Perhaps because I was implicit and the mayor also was quiet about it, hoping that one of these days the power-that-be that makes the ultimate decision will find our way," he said.

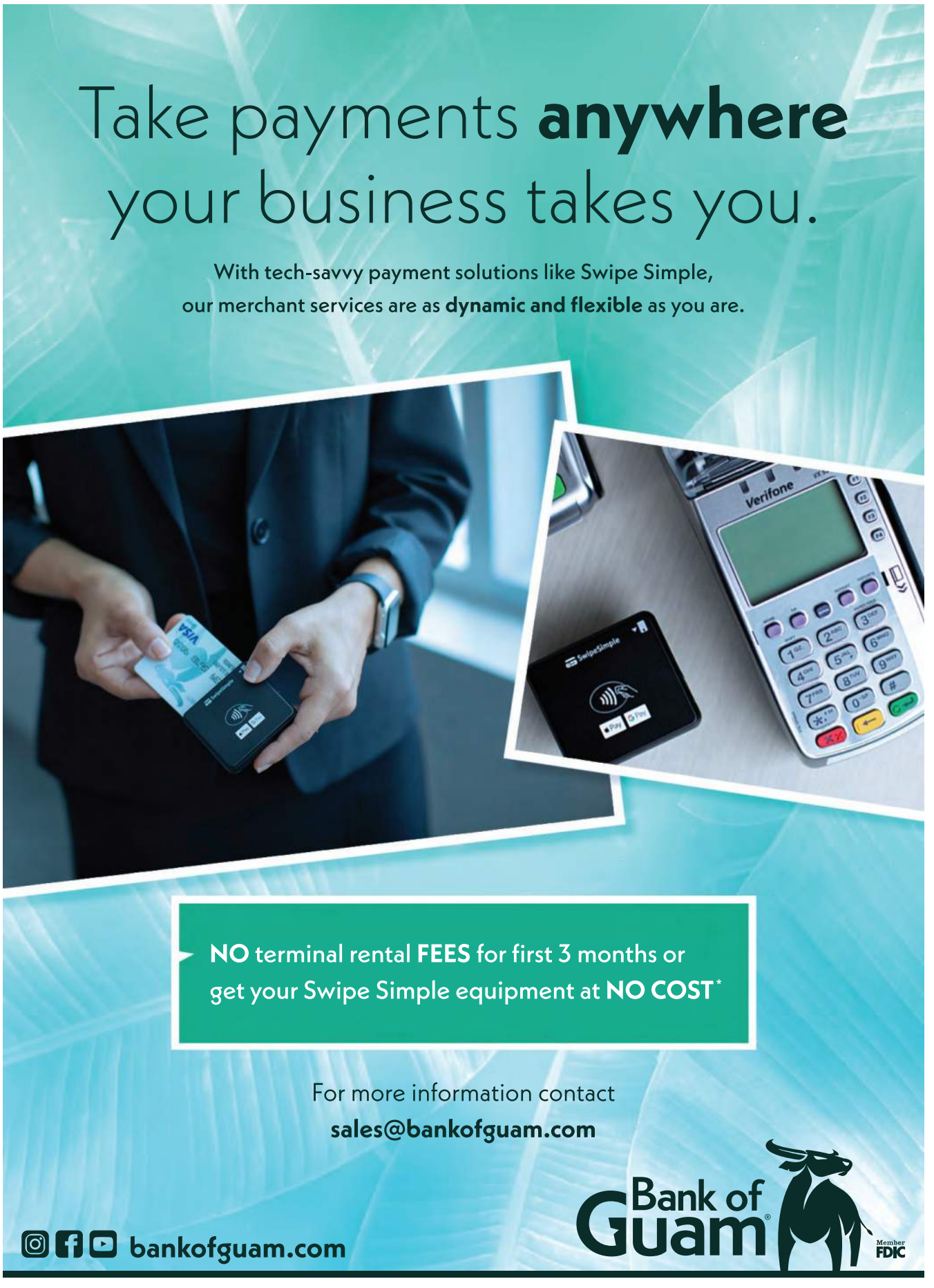
Palacios said it's going to be a challenge to rebuild the trust and confidence of the people. "Dave and I have made a commitment to earn your respect and to earn your trust and to earn your confidence…" said Palacios, drawing cheers from supporters. "We look forward to a time when our community is fair, robust. We look forward to an economy that is sustainable and is fair to everyone in the business community…"

He said he and Apatang are offering their experience and service to the people of the Commonwealth. "We all embrace a government that is responsive to its citizenry," Palacios said.

He said that is why they are offering their service and taking the challenge to rebuild trust in the Commonwealth government.

Palacios was elected lieutenant governor with Torres as governor in 2018. They began the term in January 2019.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com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THERE

From Page 1

coats of yellow paint, the medians and rails are brighter and provide greater visibility for drivers, especially at night.

The improvements were made possible by the latest campaign of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, called the Adopt-A-Median program, and very willing groups of volunteers. I thank Shirley's Coffee Shop and the Shirley's Football Club for joining forces with Saipan Mayor David Apatang's staff to clean and repaint the medians at Garapan Middle Road from the JG Sablan Ice & Water to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the American Memorial Park Tennis Court intersection.

The group then moved to Beach Road and the Quartermaster intersection to clean and paint the median, barrier, and curbs. In one morning, our teams were able to refresh two heavily used intersections on Saipan and significantly improve the visibility, cleanliness, and safety in the area.

The council knew that the Adopt-A-Median program was something we needed to implement immediately and is an integral part of the Marianas Village Pride campaign. The program welcomes groups to play direct roles in improving safety on our roads. The group accomplished both median projects in a day, and the benefits to the community will be tremendous. With the completion of these two projects, children, bikers, and motorists will be safer because of it.

We've only begun, and we invite other groups to sign up through GCEA's website to adopt medians in their villages throughout Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. We want to continue with the momentum and complete as many projects as possible. We've also received interest from schools to adopt the sidewalks, crosswalks, and medians in their vicinity. We want all schools to participate in the campaign, so please join us!

Village Flag Art contest

I've been asking teachers how the conversations about village pride are resonating with their students. They are using downloadable materials from GCEA's website, such as the MVP Village Flag contest for middle and high school students and the lessons and coloring pages for the elementary school students. I thank our educators for leading the conversations about village pride in their classrooms. Talking to our children about why it's important to have pride in where they live will stay with them forever and make them better people. Be sure to have conversations with your children at home about what life was like when you were growing up in your village. Help them understand why we need to keep our villages clean and tidy. These conversations have the power to spark positive change for our future.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FDA

From Page 1

began with extra doses of the Pfizer vaccine last month. But before more people roll up their sleeves, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will consult an expert panel Thursday before finalizing official recommendations for who should get boosters and when.

The latest moves would expand by tens of millions the number of Americans eligible for boosters and formally allow "mixing and matching" of shots—making it simpler to get another dose, especially for people who had a side effect from one brand but still want the proven protection of vaccination.

Specifically, the FDA authorized a third Moderna shot for seniors and others at high risk from COVID-19 because of their health problems, jobs or living conditions — six months after their last shot. One big change: Moderna's booster will be half the dose that's used for the first two shots, based on company data showing that was plenty to rev up immunity again.

For J&J's single-shot vaccine, the FDA said all U.S. recipients, no matter their age, could get a second dose at least two months following their initial vaccination.

The FDA rulings differ because the vaccines are made differently, with different dosing schedules—and the J&J vaccine has consistently shown a lower level of effectiveness than either of the two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Clearing the path to vaccinating the world

Manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines say they're now producing 1.5 billion doses a month and will have made 12 billion doses by the end of the year. In theory, that would be enough to meet the World Health Organization's goal of vaccinating 70% of the global population. The challenge is to ensure these vaccines go where they're needed. Most of the doses coming off production lines appear headed for wealthy countries that will soon have more than enough.

By the end of the year, the U.S., U.K., European Union, Canada and Japan could find themselves with more than 600 million excess doses, beyond what they've already promised to donate, even after offering booster shots. At that point, 20% of them may be too old to be used elsewhere. The G-7 countries have so far delivered less than 15% of the nearly 1.7 billion doses they've promised to give to low- and middle-income countries.

Much of the developing world remains almost defenseless against COVID-19. Countries accounting for 40% of the world's population have administered two-thirds of vaccinations to date. Some 56 nations, mostly in Africa and the Middle East, have vaccinated less than 10% of their populations. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres calls this "immoral" and "stupid," and he's right. Vast numbers are dying needlessly as the delta variant courses through the developing world, to say nothing of the blow to the global economy and the potential for even more dangerous variants to emerge.

Three things need to happen without further delay.

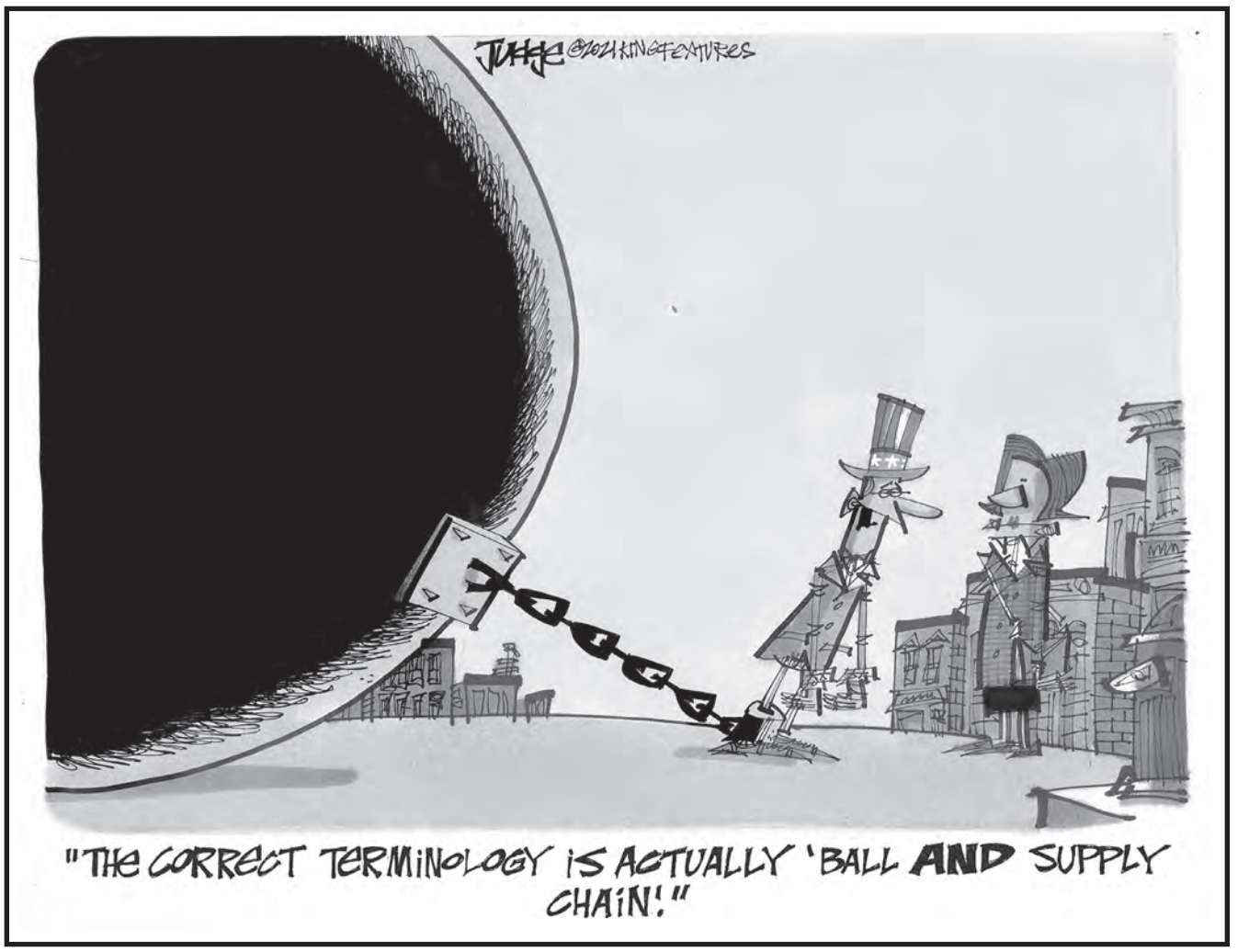
First, rich-country governments should demand much more information about producers' plans. They need to see where, when and how many shots are expected to be shipped. That will let them measure their own needs alongside planned supply and enable them to share excess doses more efficiently, instead of at short notice, often too late for the shots to be used. At his vaccine summit in September, President Joe Biden proposed a global dashboard to track vaccine production and delivery schedules. The U.S. and others should press hard for manufacturers to comply.

Next, countries that already have enough vaccines should speed up their donations and make way for deliveries to go elsewhere when they're not needed. Up to now, the global Covax partnership has fallen short, chiefly because it hasn't been given the doses it was promised. This should be fixed. Knowing when supplies can be expected and receiving them directly from the manufacturer rather than through donor countries would help as well. Advance notice is critical, especially for countries ill-equipped to handle the more fragile mRNA vaccines.

Third, rich countries should swiftly provide the $8 billion the WHO says is needed to help poor nations store, deliver and distribute vaccines. The infrastructure, cold chains and teams of vaccinators required to administer shots need to be scaled up now so they can handle the hoped-for surge in supplies.

The failure to deliver vaccines around the world is bad enough, but there's an even bigger shortfall in financing for COVID-19 testing and therapeutics. Merck & Co.'s

See CLEARING on next page



Colin Powell should be remembered for promoting honesty, civility and patriotism above divisive politics

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

As soon as I learned that former Secretary of State Colin Powell had died Monday, my mind flashed back to his infamous U.N. speech on Feb. 5, 2003, in which Powell pressed for a war to disarm Iraq. I can't forget my unease as I watched him—on TV in northern Iraq, where I was awaiting the start of the Iraq war.

I was stunned. It was already widely known that Saddam Hussein had no nuclear weapons—despite Bush administration claims. Rumors were rife that defectors were feeding fake information to U.S. sources about bio-weapons. Moreover, it was clear on the ground in Iraq that U.S. troops would face a broken nation on the brink of ethnic and religious civil war, even if the invasion went well.

Powell himself presciently tried to warn President George W. Bush in 2002 that an invasion would saddle the United States with huge Iraq burdens, coining what became known as the Pottery Barn rule: "If you break it, you own it."

Still, despite his skepticism, this soldier-statesman somehow was conned by bad intelligence briefs and inserted them into a U.N. address that he later admitted would "blot" his record forever. Indeed, that speech figures prominently in all the obituaries about Powell's passing from COVID-19 complications (amidst a battle against cancer that had weakened his system against both the disease and the vaccine).

Yet, that blot, although hard to ignore, shouldn't overshadow the greatness of the man.

Colin Powell symbolized the values this country once respected, and a kind of moderate Republican that has virtually gone the way of the dodo. He supported leaders of both parties, depending on who he thought would do the best job, and who he thought might bring the country together.

So what Powell will be remembered for goes far beyond his professional achievements. It can be summed up in a word: "character."

Of course, his character underlaid his achievements, which were enormous, and deserve listing. Born in New York City to Jamaican immigrants, he rose to become the youngest and first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs. He oversaw the first, successful Iraq War in 1991 and laid out the Powell Doctrine, calling for applying military might only with overwhelming and decisive troop strength.

He served as national security adviser under President Ronald Reagan and became the first Black person to serve as secretary of state under President George W. Bush. Although he had long considered himself a Republican, he endorsed Barack Obama, praising "the inclusive nature of his campaign."

Indeed, it was that search for inclusivity, and worry about increasing incivility in politics that was a hallmark of his political outlook dating from the 1990s, when he considered, then ruled out, running for president. He said he lacked "a calling." Perhaps he understood how ugly partisan politics was already becoming.

Powell stood on principle in criticizing the growing divisiveness and ugly political culture that was taking hold of the Republican party. He finally abandoned his effort to "help the party of Lincoln move once again close to the spirit of Lincoln" when the GOP became the party of Donald Trump. He rightly labelled Trump a liar.

After the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, Powell said he no longer considered himself a member of Trump's GOP. "We need people that will speak the truth," he said.

So it's not surprising that, as deeply felt tributes pour in from Powell's close associates, many come from those who are lean to the left and left-center of the political spectrum. A small sample of the praise:

"Wonderful human being," Gen. Wesley Clark said on Monday.

"Character, competence, integrity," was the praise offered by Col. Bill Smullen, Powell's former chief of staff.

"Class act," stated Delaware Democratic Sen. Chris Coons.

"Colin embodied the highest ideals of both warrior and diplomat. America has lost a patriot of unmatched honor and dignity," hailed President Joe Biden.

See COLIN on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Maintaining open and transparent dialogue; upholding laws to further protect and preserve natural and cultural resources in Guam

By BENJAMIN NICHOLSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson is commander of Joint Region Marianas.

The Joint Region Marianas relationship with Guam and its people is very special and vitally significant. For more than seven decades we have faced challenges and adversities that are often unique to our small island community. Together we have experienced super typhoons and natural disasters; we have responded to regional crises and humanitarian assistance needs of our larger regional community; and most recently we came together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

This shared interest in taking care of our island community is the bedrock of our common bond. Furthermore, this sense of inafa mao'lek is the impetus for a deeper mutual understanding of our diverse military and civilian populations and ultimately the foundation for stronger relationships between them.

Admittedly, no relationship is perfect. We have our challenges, and there will sometimes be differences in priorities and missions. However, as we embark on new endeavors and initiatives in the defense of our island, region and nation, we must always keep in mind open dialogue, shared trust and mutual respect remain crucial to our ability to forge a path together to ensure a free, safe, and thriving Guam.

To that end, JRM will continue to plan and execute the Marine Corps relocation to Guam in a responsible, collaborative and transparent manner, and we are committed to the same for any future military growth. We understand that our actions will speak volumes in terms of seeking solutions for the entire community. We remain completely engaged and dedicated to fighting 'from Guam and for Guam' in an effort to fulfill our mission to defend a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Marine Corps realignment to Guam, archaeological discoveries during construction

On behalf of the Department of Defense, JRM, in partnership with the Government of Guam and several local community and cultural organizations, established the 2011 Programmatic Agreement to protect cultural resources during the Marine Corps Relocation.

Under this PA, and consistent with federal laws which protect cultural and historic resources, the DoD is required to consult with the Guam State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to ensure discoveries undergo rigorous archaeological study and that known or new historic and prehistoric sites are properly managed.

Recognizing that no pre-construction survey can be 100% definitive in its identification of archaeological sites, the DoD and Government of Guam established an archaeological monitoring process to provide further assurance that any previously unknown sites would be detected, analyzed, reported, and appropriately addressed. This monitoring process takes place before vegetation clearing, during vegetation clearing and stump removal, and again during construction grading, in an effort to ensure the identification and appropriate treatment of any new discoveries.

The 2011 PA also requires the DoD to provide oversight of construction activities by professional archaeologists, including site checks and responding to and reporting discoveries. Following dispute resolution agreements with SHPO in 2018 and 2020, the Navy implemented additional monitoring requirements on five large projects, including two firing ranges, the main cantonment area of the Marine base, water wells, and the urban combat training complex (at Andersen South). In concert with our consultative partners at the SHPO's office, JRM and our DoD agency partners have worked tirelessly to protect the historic and cultural heritage of Guam, and are proud of the hard-working people engaged in that important task.

The DoD team of professional archaeologists carefully records locations of all archaeological discoveries throughout Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz. However, the confidentiality provisions in the National Park Service Archaeological Resources Protection Act precludes us from releasing all of the related information to the public. The law specifically requires the protection of the information and locations of archaeological resources in order to avoid any risk of harm to those resources. This is not to hide heritage from the public, but to preserve heritage and ensure those without proper archeological training do not harm the sites.

We collaborate daily with the SHPO's office to maintain a fine balance between sharing cultural information with the community and upholding the regulations and laws designed to protect sensitive cultural resources.

Through this collaborative process, many significant cultural resources have been preserved in place and/or avoided during the planning phase of the Marine Corps relocation. While the preference is to preserve sites and resources in place, in the event that avoidance is not possible, the 2011 PA has a provision that allows data recovery as a standard mitigation in coordination with the SHPO. The careful and meticulous archaeological work allows us to permanently record the important details and physical evidence of Guam's history to share with the public and our future generations.

Additionally, we eagerly anticipate the opening of the Guam Cultural Repository at the University of Guam and conservation of Guam's priceless cultural resources and preservation of Guam's story for present and future generations. This facility was made possible by a $12 million DoD grant, and will serve as a key resource for ongoing archaeological research, education, and interpretive activities by and for the people of Guam.

Investing in environmentally responsible construction

Throughout the various construction projects in Guam, the DoD has implemented protective actions to safeguard the island's precious resources. In coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a host of federal and local resource protection agencies, the DoD conducts thorough environmental reviews, including Environmental Impact Statements, to assess and subsequently mitigate environmental hazards. In the process of these environmental reviews, the DoD consults with federal and local agency partners to develop and implement environmental mitigation measures to address or avoid potential environmental impacts.

For example, in order to address the concerns regarding the possibility of groundwater contamination from the construction and operation of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range, the DoD has developed a strict set of environmental monitoring and range procedures. Included in the plans for the construction of the range complex are multiple-celled ponding basin systems approved by the Guam EPA that will ensure removal of pollutants such as phosphorus, nitrogen and metals, including lead. The DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment awarded a $3.7 million grant to Guam Water Authority to expand the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer's monitoring network, a measure which will benefit all the residents of Guam for years to come.

Additionally, and related to the military's construction in Guam, the DoD has awarded nearly $4 million toward habitat preservation projects in Guam through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program. The program allows the DoD to partner with willing landowners to preserve property for natural and cultural resources. Basically, the DoD pays the landowner to not develop the land in order to preserve the habitat. The award represents DoD's enduring commitment to protect and preserve Guam's natural resources through mutually beneficial partnerships. This effort builds upon our longstanding commitment to environmental stewardship in our island community.

The DoD has similarly funded numerous upgrades to infrastructure in Guam, to include roadway improvements, water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, and the modernization of the Guam commercial port. JRM and the DoD are committed to the protection and preservation of the island environment by continuing to work closely with our partners, listening to community concerns, and to doing our part to maintain and upgrade Guam's infrastructure for the benefit of the entire island.

We are thankful for Guam and its people for supporting our troops and the national security mission. Your support is important to sustaining and growing the military's capabilities to meet the unexpected, defend this region, uphold our nation's ideals, and be counted amongst the most ready and capable forces of the United States. Biba Guam!

COLIN

From Page 6

But what's more surprising is the outpouring from GOP Trump supporters in Congress, many too cowardly to publicly adopt Powell's principled stance.

They include Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., a Trump acolyte in the House minority leadership, who refuses to reject the Big Lie about a stolen election, who said, "America has lost a true leader and American patriot." Similar accolades have flowed from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, whom Trump recently endorsed, along with Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., who leads the GOP Senate campaign committee.

Maybe they never noticed when Trump called Powell a "stiff" who brought on the 2003 Iraq war (which Trump originally supported, despite lying about it). Or maybe these Trumpists are trying to have it both ways, appealing for votes from people of color by showering Powell with accolades, while embracing a leader whose lies drove Powell out of the GOP.

Perhaps they secretly recognize that Colin Powell stood for principles most Americans still want their leaders to embody but they are too weak to emulate: decency, honesty, inclusiveness, love of country, and the elevation of those values above partisan politics and pursuit of office.

Powell will be remembered for his strength of character, unlike many who now praise him. We can only wish his legacy would inspire others to follow suit.

CLEARING

From Page 6

antiviral pill molnupiravir—which appears to cut the risk of hospitalization and death by half if administered quickly—gives rich countries another way to help. Merck has already struck licensing deals with several Indian generics makers. Rich-country support for additional production around the world could get quick results and save many lives. Subsidies for producing the components needed to make molnupiravir and other promising antivirals also make sense.

The longer the pandemic goes on, the greater its costs and risks—including for countries that have vaccinated most of their citizens. This is about self-interest as much as benevolence.

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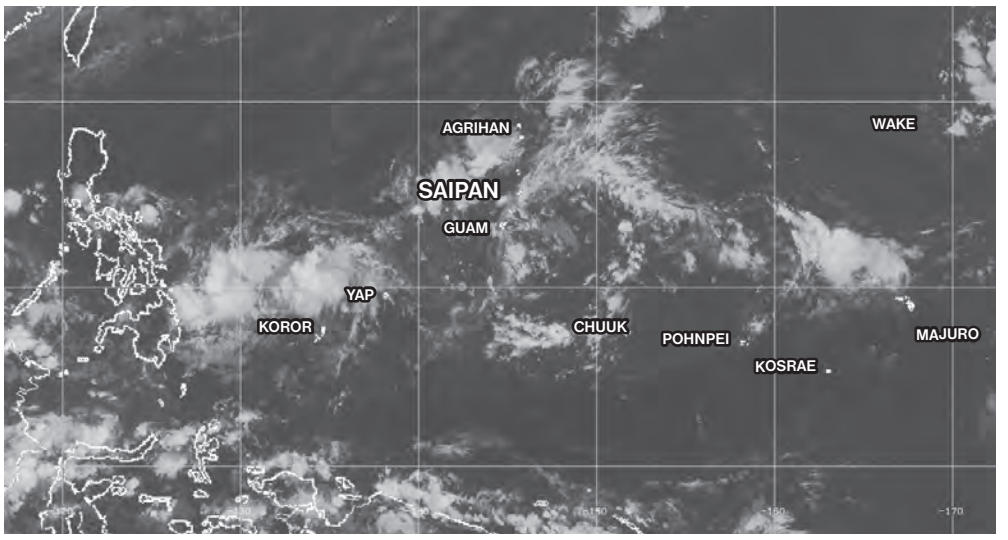
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Highs around 84. Chance of showers 30 percent.	Cloudy with showers likely and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 70 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 50 percent.
84º / 76º	84º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º	80º / 70º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:56 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies, gentle east winds and combined seas of 3 to 5 feet are seen over the Marianas. A disturbance to the east will move in later today to bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83 / 77 °F
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85 / 78 °F
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86 / 79 °F
Chuuk	Light Rain	84 / 79 °F
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	84 / 76 °F
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87 / 80 °F
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86 / 82 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:11AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:13 PM	7:01 PM
Saturday	-	8:02 PM	7:41 PM
Sunday	-	8:53 PM	8:24 PM
Monday	-	9:44 PM	9:10 PM
Tuesday	-	10:36 PM	9:59 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	62 / 57 °F
Beijing	Fair	67 /40 °F
Hong Kong	Fair	84 / 66 °F
Honolulu	Fair	78 / 72 °F
London	Clear	59/ 53 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	59 / 53 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89 / 77 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	78 / 57 °F
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	81 / 78 °F
New York	Mostly Cloudy	68 / 59 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	63 / 54 °F
Paris	Cloudy/Wind	58 / 39 °F
Busan	Cloudy	60 / 51 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72 / 62 °F
Salem	Clear	63 / 59 °F
San Francisco	Rain Shower	61 / 58 °F
Seoul	Fair	57 / 38 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	65 / 52 °F
Washington, DC	Clear	61 / 52 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:34 AM	Low Tide	0.05
8:59 AM	High Tide	1.74
2:48 PM	Low Tide	0.84
8:02 PM	High Tide	1.72

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

EMBRACING

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

IN THE TIME OF THE PANDEMIC

Redefining the relationship between businesses and the community

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
OCTOBER 22, 2021

pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
Rest Assured.

PACIFICA INSURANCE:
A business with a sense of purpose

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

For 47 years, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. has been a living testament to its slogan—"Rest Assured"—providing peace of mind to its customers when it comes to life, health, property, and during unexpected turns in life. But, more than all the services it provides for the benefit of their policy holders, Pacifica Insurance also has a generous heart when it comes to taking care of the community's well-being.

"Even businesses need a sense of purpose. Making a difference in the lives of others gives us a sense of purpose," said PIU president/chief operating officer Shirley Sablan. "It is important to do business in an environment that is built around love, kindness, and sympathy, and what better way to demonstrate all these than through community initiatives and partnerships we maintain with members of our community also as a form of reciprocity."

Sablan said that activities and programs focused on Corporate Social Responsibility has become a Pacifica "family affair," which means they do not have a specific group of employees tasked for this endeavor.

"Everyone is given an opportunity to participate. …Our CSR programs do inspire our team because they understand its importance. They always look forward to the next give-back gig," she added.

According to Sablan, PIU has been quite active in the community and their efforts did not slow down during the pandemic. "Like many others, we were able to make the best of the situation and utilized every available avenue, however limited they were," she said.

A year since the COVID-19 pandemic started, Pacifica Insurance was still able to extend support for programs relating to sports, education, tourism, and the environment, Sablan said. These include the Hyatt Charity Golf Classic, Joeten Kiyu Public Library Summer Reading Program, Aluf Luta Golf Classic, the Joeten DaiDai Foundation, Saipan International Fishing Tournament, PSS Teacher of the Year, Stellar Marianas 2021 Miss Marianas Pageant, the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Plant 500 Marianas, the 2020 Christmas Village, the Green Gala of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Saipan Rotary Club, and Toys for Tots, to name a few.

That even extended to the company's signature in-house program, Pacifica Art Contest, where eligible artists are invited to submit traditional, digital, or 3D artwork and the winning art pieces are featured in the company's calendar and other marketing materials.

"Our art contest did not skip a beat. In 2020, instead of having a full-fledged contest, we gave a few of our favorite art pieces that were previously ranked a second shot at the win. These were featured in a reaction video we produced last year that can be found today on youtube.com/pacificainsurance," Sablan added.

She said that Pacifica Insurance was able to have the Pacifica Art Contest full-on this year since the CNMI is managing the pandemic well and community vulnerability level at its safest at the green level.

All entries were submitted on Sept. 24 and winners have yet to be announced. "This year… we were able to hold the actual contest, this time with the theme 'Stay Covid-19 free!' that resulted in over 200 entries," she added.

"Businesses have many ways of measuring their success with CSR. For Pacifica Insurance, our measure of success in this regard is in how members of our community benefit from our support and how well it is received because at the end of the day, that's what it was and will always be about. We've received many 'thank yous' over the years and that's good enough for us," Sablan said.

PACIFICA ART CONTEST IS A PACIFICA INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INC. VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION DESIGNED TO NURTURE AND SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT AND THE ARTS IN THE CNMI. EST. 2014.

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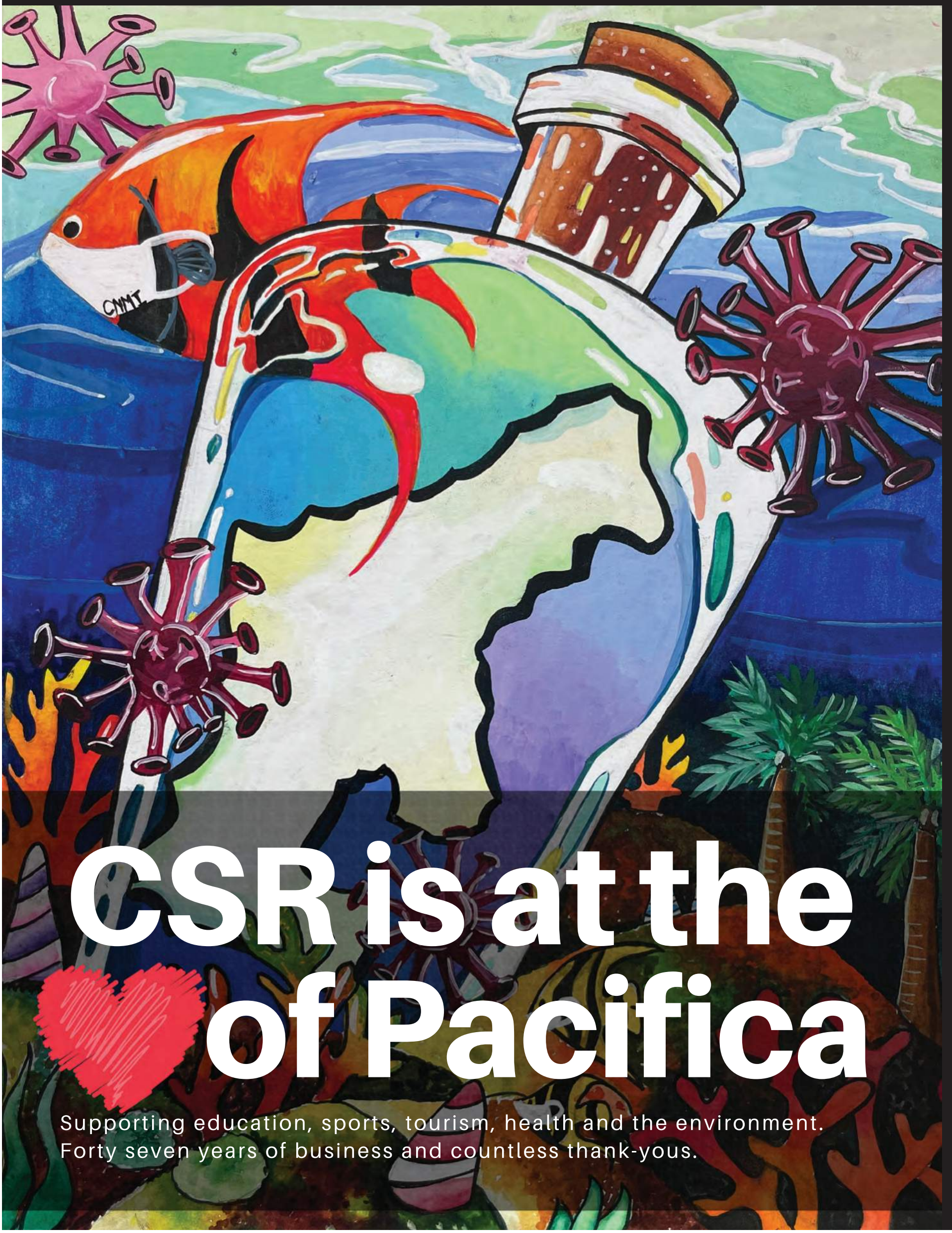

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REST ASSURED, MARIANAS

The case for corporate social purpose and community investment

By BRUCE DEBOSKEY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The need for businesses to focus on corporate social responsibility has never been more urgent, and the case for doing so has never been stronger. The quadruple whammy of the COVID 19 pandemic, expanding income inequality, the racial justice movement, and climate change are driving corporations, large and small, across the U.S. and abroad, to reevaluate and strengthen their commitments to addressing these issues.

Employees and consumers alike care deeply about businesses' commitment to social purpose and community impact and are willing to adjust their employment preferences and purchases accordingly.

The data are clear:

■ The 68 million members of Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, already make up 24 per cent of the global workforce. An overwhelming 90% of them believe companies must act to help with social and environmental issues and 75% will do research to see if a company's stated mission matches its actions. One study found that Gen Z is "The first generation [of employees] to prioritize purpose over salary. They read mission statements and values documents to select where they work and want their employer's values to match their values."

■ After learning a brand supports a social cause and/or is socially responsible, Gen Z consumers are 85% more likely to trust a brand, 84% more likely to buy their products and 82% likely to recommend that brand to their friends and family.

■ The 72 million members of the millennial generation, born between 1981 and 1996, already comprise half of the U.S. workforce and, by 2025, are projected to be 75 per cent of the global workforce. Eighty-three percent of millennial employees claim more loyalty to a company that helps them contribute to social and environmental issues and 88 percent say their jobs are more fulfilling when they are provided with such opportunities. Most would take a pay cut to work at an environmentally responsible company.

■ 91% of millennial consumers would switch from a product they typically buy to a new product sold by a "purpose driven company."

■ 80% of all consumers agree that businesses must play a role in addressing societal issues; they want companies to take actions which not only increase profits, but also improve social conditions and make the world a better place. A poll of nearly 19,000 consumers from 28 countries, across all demographics, found that 70 percent of purpose-driven shoppers would pay an added premium of 35 percent for recycled or eco-friendly goods.

■ Almost 60% of Americans said they would "choose, switch from, avoid or boycott a brand based on its stand on societal issues with which they disagree." Consumers are four to six times more likely to buy from, trust, champion and defend companies with a strong purpose.

■ Finally, purposeful brands grow twice as fast as their competition. Over a period of 12 years, brands with high perceived positive impact have a brand value growth of 175%, versus 86% for medium positive impact and 70% for low positive impact.

Many ways to make an impact

In addition to the holy grail of making cash donations to nonprofits, companies can increase financial support and opportunities for employee volunteerism; establish or increase a program to match employees' donations; donate employees' unique skills and services; contribute products and services; host internal drives for food, clothing, books, etc.; expand support for employee mental health care; provide education assistance for employees and their children; evaluate the impact of their own investments on climate change, racial justice and income inequality, and, of course, increase pay and health care benefits.

To be effective in making philanthropic decisions, businesses should develop an articulated plan that will:

■ Engage all internal stakeholders—from the C-Suite to entry level employees.

■ Consider the views of external stakeholders, including members of the communities it wishes to serve as well as neighbors, customers, nonprofits and shareholders.

■ Identify the reasons for giving—comprising a range including employee recruitment, retention and engagement; customer attraction and loyalty, and reputational risk management.

■ Align all of the company's resources, including human and intellectual capital, products, skills and volunteerism, as well as financial capacity, towards philanthropic initiatives.

■ Develop a communication plan that incorporates genuine ways to tell the businesses' philanthropic story.

■ Design and execute a strategy for impact including analysis and planning around objectives, deliverables, outcomes and metrics.

In his 2021 letter to CEO's, BlackRock's Chairman and CEO, Larry Fink, stated: "The more your company can show its purpose in delivering value to its customers, its employees, and its communities, the better able you will be to compete and deliver long-term, durable profits for shareholders."

Bruce DeBoskey, J.D., is a philanthropic strategist working across the United States with The DeBoskey Group to help families, businesses, foundations and family offices design and implement thoughtful philanthropic strategies and actionable plans. He is a frequent keynote speaker at conferences and workshops on philanthropy. Visit deboskeygroup.com or @BDeBo.

PPP envisions the CNMI as a world-class destination

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

The idea is to make the CNMI into a world-class destination. There may be those who scoff at the idea but Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is undeterred and firmly believes it can be done.

Toward that end, he created the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, which he co-chairs the with TanHoldings president and CEO Jerry Tan, which then came up with something beautiful to behold: the prosaically termed "Public Private Partnership" program that belies the magic that lies at the heart of such a simple concept—making people care about the place where they live.

And with tourism at a standstill because of the COVID19 pandemic, Tan said this is the right time to reinvest and step up. While everything looks grim, CNMI leaders believe this is an opportunity to reboot and restart, to start a grassroots-led campaign to repair and beautify tourist destinations and transform the CNMI into a place where people would want to visit. Again and again and again.

In an earlier interview, Tan said the council believes in the future of the CNMI. "The council is planning for the CNMI's future as far as 2031 and we know we have to take a lot of baby steps and PPP is a way of accomplishing those baby steps," he said.

The council believes that the combined resources and experience of the CNMI government and the private sector will help execute long term goals that will benefit both community members and tourists. That partnership is embodied in a memorandum of agreement that will run for five years.

"The fact that we have PPP members…who are dedicated to give their time, resources and effort for five years is a testament to their commitment to make our island community a better place," said Torres.

To date, the PPP has accomplished 69 projects around the islands. Their work span a number of ways, including maintenance, repainting, repairing structures, adding landscaping, or road clearing.

On Rota, the projects and the companies/offices that have adopted them are:

- Benita Manglona Buildings (Songsong Village), Mendiola Park, Sinapalo Basketball Court and Youth Center: Rota Mayor's Office, Filipino Community of Rota, Rota Merchandising DK Brothers;
- Airport Road on Rota: Hotel Valentino and Commonwealth Ports Authority Rota;

On Tinian:

- Jones Beach: Triple J Enterprises, Inc.;
- Broadway Estates Basketball Court: Tinian Mayor's Office, Typhoon Sports Association, Fitbeat Anti-Tobacco Wellness;

On Saipan,

- Consulting services for PPP construction projects: Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects;
- Grotto: International Roller Skates, Tasi & the Ali'is, DIVEWISH, Loco & Taco Dining Bar, and Bibong Corp. or Mariana Lighthouse;
- Korean Peace Memorial: P&A Corp.
- Cowtown: Marianas Racing Association
- Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, directional and location signages, Bird Island Lookout, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway and Last Command Post: TanHoldings/Tan Siu Lin Foundation;
- Garapan Core highway medians: Kanoa Football Club and Beach Road Tourism Development, Inc.;
- Pau Pau Beach: E-Land Group;
- Garapan Central Park: Bridge Capital LCC;
- Suicide Cliff: Rotary Club of Saipan and Emon Masonic Lodge 179;
- Sugar Dock Beach: Lions Club International District 204, Region 2 and Mount Carmel School;
- Airport Access Road: Commonwealth Ports Authority Saipan, Airport Operators Committee, POI Aviation;
- North Trails: Triathlon Association of CNMI and NMI Cycling Federation;
- Ladder Beach: CTSI Logistics;
- Koblerville Village: Northern Mariana Islands Football Association
- San Isidro Beach Park/Laly 4: United Filipino Organization and Triple J Enterprises;
- Micro Beach: Korean Community of Saipan
- Susupe Beach Park: Kanoa Resort Saipan and Chinese Association Saipan;
- Naftan Point: Palauan Community Association of the CNMI;
- Beach Road Flower Garden (National Office Supply to Marianas Lounge): Tasi Tours and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance;
- Toyota intersection medians: Saipan Mayor's Office;
- Underwater World War II Korean Monument: Korean Diving Association;
- Japanese Peace Memorial and Tower of Okinawa: Japan Saipan Travel Association and Japanese Society of Northern Marianas;
- Mt. Tapochau: I Love Saipan, Korean Jungle Tour Association, Artman;
- Garapan Basketball Court: Bank of Guam;
- Historical Samoan Village (Tanapag) and I'iga Pisa Launch Site (Agingan): Samoa-Marianas;
- Marianas High School basketball court: Marianas High School Class of 1987;
- Da'ok (Bicol) Pavilion: Pride Marinas Youth;
- Garapan sidewalk curbs: LJ's Lawncare, LLC.
- Dandan Children's Park and San Antonio Basketball Court & Fernando Benavente Library: Office of Precinct 1 Representatives, 22nd Legislature;
- Susupe basketball court and social hall: Office of Precinct 2 Representatives, 22nd Legislature;
- Tanapag Beach and Sadog Tasi welcome sign: Office of Precinct 4 Representatives, 22nd Legislature;
- Tanapag basketball court: Talaabwogh Stars;
- As Matuis basketball court: Office of Precinct 4 Representatives, 22nd Legislature and Socho Basketball Club;
- Capital Hill basketball court and baseball field:
- Lower Navy Hill basketball court, Civic Center Beach Park pavilion etc.: Office of the House Minority, 22nd Legislature;
- Kagman II, Kagman III KCC and Chacha basketball courts: Office of Precinct 5 Representatives, 22nd Legislature;

Projects that are in the pipeline are Shirley's Coffee Shop and Football Club will be in charge of Middle Road/Garapan Intersection and medians; Northern Marianas College will be in charge of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero medians; Life in the Son Christian Fellowship will be in charge of Gualo Rai medians; TanHoldings Football Club will be in charge of Guma Sakman medians; Bayani Association will be in charge of Susupe medians; Saipan Marianas Lions Club will be in charge of Chalan Kiya medians; Chris Concepcion Family & Friends will be in charge of Chalan Piao medians; Century Tours, Inc., Century Hotel, Seatouch, iSHOP, and POI Aviation will be in charge of the Mobil Kagman intersection medians and D&Q will be in charge of the Sadog Tasi intersection median.

PPP's newest initiative is the Marianas Village Pride Campaign that started on Oct. 4, 2021, and will run until Ja. 6, 2022.

'For the betterment of the community'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Established 12 years ago, Brabu Pharmacy not only provides cost-effective medicines and personal care products but they also do it a manner that is customer-focused and, in many cases, they actually cultivate personal relationships with their customers.

This is one aspect of Brabu Pharmacy service that one of their customers, Jay, appreciates. Some of the pharmacy's technicians already know him by name and his birthday, so getting his prescriptions refilled is always a breeze. That personal touch and the feeling that Brabu Pharmacy is on your side when it comes to your health and wellness forms a large part of the pharmacy's image.

And that extends not just to each and every customer but to the CNMI community at large. Brabu Pharmacy doesn't confine itself behind glass counters but also does what it can to make for a better and healthier CNMI. Pharmacy owner and pharmacist Ted Parker himself says that operating with the mantra "for the betterment of the community" is essential to their identity.

"Reaching out with various projects that help the community is not just a key important component of Brabu's business model, but essential to our identity. ...We do not call our social responsibility as programs as we are more relaxed than that. ...Our corporate motto is 'providing medicine and life-enhancing services for our island's total wellbeing,'" he said.

"In a sense our whole staff is our Corporate Social Responsibility team. We ask everyone to contribute ideas on how we may better serve our patients and their specific needs. ...And our social responsibilities are not limited in time frame. We are here to serve our community in any way we can as long as that care is needed, be it after a typhoon or during a pandemic," he added.

With lessons learned after Typhoon Soudelor hit in 2015, Brabu Pharmacy had all kinds of backups in place and stepped up to the plate to provide continuous service to the community after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in 2018. On the second day after the typhoon, Brabu already opened its doors, although on limited hours, and utilized staff who live in different locations to deliver medicines to patients.

When the pandemic struck, Brabu remained true to its commitment to have the medicine the community needs, while staying vigilant about safety and health protocols. "As soon as COVID19 lockdown was announced, our staff set protocols to address patient interaction in the safest manner possible. We continue to evolve as the virus evolves and treatments become available. However, Brabu is not just reactionary as we proactively seek to find better means to provide for our community, no matter the trials and tribulations of the day," Parker said.

"We were one of the first organizations on island that required hand sanitation, temperature checks, and social distancing. As we learned more about the pandemic, we set up tents and a workstation outside to ensure social distancing and maintain the safety of our patients. Eventually, we were delivering directly to patients' houses, especially those that were at high risk and this continues until today," he added.

Last month, Brabu expanded its services and is now offering various immunizations, vaccine shots, and a drive-thru COVID-19 testing. They started administering vaccinations in April when Brabu Pharmacy's pharmacy technicians were given authorization to give vaccines under the Health and Safety Prevention program. The vaccines available are Shingrix, varicella (chickenpox), tetanus, hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps and rubella, pneumonia, influenza and HPV. Their protocol for all vaccines is for ages 13 and up. The COVID-19 vaccine is not included as this is only available at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Recently, Brabu welcomed back its two former workers—Patsylynn Cepeda and Alina Ishikawa—who are now both Pharmacy Doctors. Cepeda graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Hawaii in Hilo while Ishikawa graduated under the pharmacy program of the Northeastern University in Boston. Both pursued Pharmacy medicine with the encouragement and support of Parker and his wife, Kathy.

> ...keeping inspired and doing the things that help our community."

In an earlier interview, Parker said that mentoring young people and seeing them succeed is part of Brabu's mission. "The amount of work that you put into mentoring people, getting them to do things and when it comes to fruition, when you see that they have actually succeeded and they have actually started believing in themselves that they can actually succeed, is the most gratifying thing in the world," he said.

"...This is what the islands need. You have to build a local workforce. ...We have to have a local workforce that's born, devoted, and will stay here," he added.

When asked how Brabu measures its impact on the community, Parker said that feedback from the community is often very individualistic and subtle. "Sometimes the response is merely a grin or nod of the head. Sometimes it's someone returning and indicating that they are better or their loved one is better," Parker said "Oftentimes it's just a heartfelt 'thank you.' ...They do let us know in person, emails, and on social media. ...How do we use these responses? By keeping inspired and doing the things that help our community."

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E-Land continues to redefine the meaning of hospitality

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Hospitality does not only happen within the walls of E Land's three hotel properties—Kensington Hotel in San Roque, Pacific Island Club Saipan in San Antonio, and Coral Ocean Point golf resort in Koblerville. They also extend to the community and that includes caring for the environment and a strict adherence to the tenets of ethics.

According to Corporate Social Responsibility manager Lindsay Ahn, ever since E-Land began business back in 1980 as a small garment store in Korea, the founding members of the company had a clear mission and vision "to be the light and salt of the world."

"For 41 years, we have committed to be a good neighbor in the community and to be cognizant of its needs. ...Since we are conducting business outside of Korea, our organization's culture boils down to being a part of the community we are in," she said.

On Saipan itself, E-Land has been here for about a decade now. "We came as an investor and we are grateful that the Saipan community welcomed and embraced us. ...Because of this, we like to continue to give back and grow with the whole community," she added.

Over the years, E Land's commitment to social responsibility is closely tied to their management philosophy of sharing, growth, and willingness to serve. "In Korea, our main office operates a foundation called the E-Land Foundation. They are responsible for the philanthropic work of the whole E-Land Group. ... In the CNMI, we don't have a team dedicated to community engagement but the whole management understands and shares the value of social responsibility, so we work like one team when there is outreach project," Ahn said.

She said the employees themselves from the company's three properties show a high level of enthusiasm and interest when E-Land has any outreach projects. "When we plan CSR projects, we get confidence from the support of our employees and their families, which shows that they genuinely enjoy doing volunteer work for the community," Ahn said.

Before the pandemic, many of their CSR programs were geared toward "public infrastructure development" such as keeping public infrastructures clean and organized. They also had a "youth environmental program" because E-Land's CSR team believes that community growth starts with the youth, making students understand the importance of taking are of the environment that will eventually mold them to become future leaders.

"In spite of the pandemic, we still continued to engage with the community. When the pandemic started to affect the CNMI's industries and economy, E-Land Group donated care packages to [the] Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, to the office of Nutrition Assistance Program and to our front-liners. ...We also made a donation of $10,525 to Karidat [Social Services] from PIC's Sharing Seed Fund and 400 packs of rice to Korean community," Ahn said.

E-Land also conducts regular beach cleanups by taking care of Pau Pau Beach park, which is the company's adopted site for the Governor's Council Economic Advisers Private and Public Partnership program.

Other recent initiatives by E-Land include Coral Ocean Golf Resort bringing back the "Mana'mko Ground Golf" event, the company's employees from the three properties visited the CNMI Living Independently office to have special activities with the center's consumers and "we continuously sponsor various local events—big or small.

Ahn said they plan to have community outreach projects for the entire year, while making adjustments when unexpected events happen. "....The pandemic has imposed more restraints on our CSR plans, not only because we needed to keep our distance from each other but more importantly, our business suffered hard," she said.

There are some projects E-Land has in mind, but Ahn said they had to take a rain check on some of these projects because of the pandemic.

"But being in this kind of crisis also gave us a chance to reassure each other and be reminded of a sense of togetherness and solidarity. We have been reconsidering where we need to pay more attention to or what we need to prioritize. The pandemic sheds light on a new per-

See E-LAND on Next Page

THE E·LAND GROUP

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

SAIPAN KENSINGTON HOTEL

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

E-LAND

From Page 14

spective and gives new challenges because many of our lives have changed, like one of our new concerns is the increased use of disposable items such as plastic containers and masks. It is our task to figure out how to use less of those while still putting the public health and safety first," Ahn added.

E Land takes feedbacks and responses from its guests, clients, and stakeholders seriously, Ahn said. "We try to use those responses to improve ourselves and to understand the community better. Having inputs and better understanding of the local community is important to us as we are committed to a long-term vision," Ahn said. "We would like to come up with more well-established long-term CSR plan for sustainable management and inclusive growth in the CNMI."

THE E·LAND GROUP

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

SAIPAN KENSINGTON HOTEL

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Left photo: Teacher of the Year: 2021 State Board of Education and CNMI Public School System's winner Ms. Bonny Cruz was awarded for her unwavering dedication and hard work to the children of Saipan by the Bank of Guam. Presenting the donation was our very own Garapan Saipan Branch team, which included Marcie Tomokane - VP/CNMI Regional Manager, Bonny Cruz (Teacher of the Year), Larry Philip-Garapan Saipan Branch Manager, and Tania David-Operations Manager. **Right photo:** Toys for Tots: In attendance are Northern Marianas College ASNMC V-President, Gerald Crisostomo Jr., Marine Captain A.J. Ramos, Bank of Guam Insurance Representative Marcy Duenas, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Executive Director Lee Tenorio, Marine Sgt. Damien Viera, and Garapan Branch Operations Manager Tania David

Growing social responsibility at the core of Bank of Guam

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Teach Children to Save: Team Tinian conducted a presentation on the importance of how to save to 40 third-grade students at Tinian Elementary School. (April 2019)

There is a reason why Bank of Guam is called the People's Bank—way before Corporate Social Responsibility became a part of nearly every company's mission—and that core value lies at the very heart of the bank's *raison d›être*.

According to Jacqueline A. Marati, senior vice president, chief Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility officer, Bank of Guam was founded for the purpose of doing good for our islands and region.

The bank's founder, Jesus S. Leon Guerrero, recognized nearly 50 years ago that islanders have varying needs that were not being met and he wanted to help people by addressing that need, Marati said.

She pointed out that, even from the start, Bank of Guam was already practicing Corporate Social Responsibility, providing financial empowerment and inclusion, emphasizing the importance of protecting our environment, and raising education and healthcare awareness for the community.

"In a word, it formed the genesis for our founding and, with that genesis, we realized that CSR was a journey, not a destination, and that our goal was progress and transparency," she said.

In 2018, Bank of Guam's leadership realized the importance of formalizing the company's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility, Marati said, and formally created CSR within the bank's communications department because of the strategic importance of this focus, as well as to be able to communicate commitment and accountability. "To be clear, at Bank of Guam, [Corporate Social Responsibility] is everyone's responsibility," she added.

Marati said their CSR programs and projects were not compiled on a whim. "We provide CSR training, examples, and sharing. We have planned for and witnessed a growth of departmental and branch-led projects, which is what we encouraged and had hoped would happen."

On top of that, Bank of Guam has also identified what it calls "Community Changemakers" within their ranks. Marati said these are bank employees who have taken the lead in sustainable farming, foster family support and at-risk families, and stray animal adoption, among other initiatives. "One of our goals…is to have employees initiate projects that they believe are meaningful to them," she said.

Marati explained that teamwork within Bank of Guam plays a large part in their vision of CSR. Everyone who wants to help the community can translate that into reality. "We are empowering employees to decide what matters to them and organizing outreaches and contributions in their communities. They are volunteering their time for many projects such as financial empowerment, environmental cleanup, food security/gardening, food and meal donations and stray animal projects. … We have measured our volunteer hours, weight of goods donated and even the weight of the trash we collected here [in] Guam," she said.

Marati said that Bank of Guam's CSR outreach never stopped during the pandemic, pivoting to virtual outreaches as well as socially distant and safe person-to-person projects. "We conducted financial empowerment lessons in schools and communities. We continued to have employee drives for food, [personal protective equipment], and supplies. We delivered support (meals and supplies) to healthcare workers and even organized a 2021 March Founder's Day of Giving network in which we did major cleanups throughout all the islands on a single day," she added.

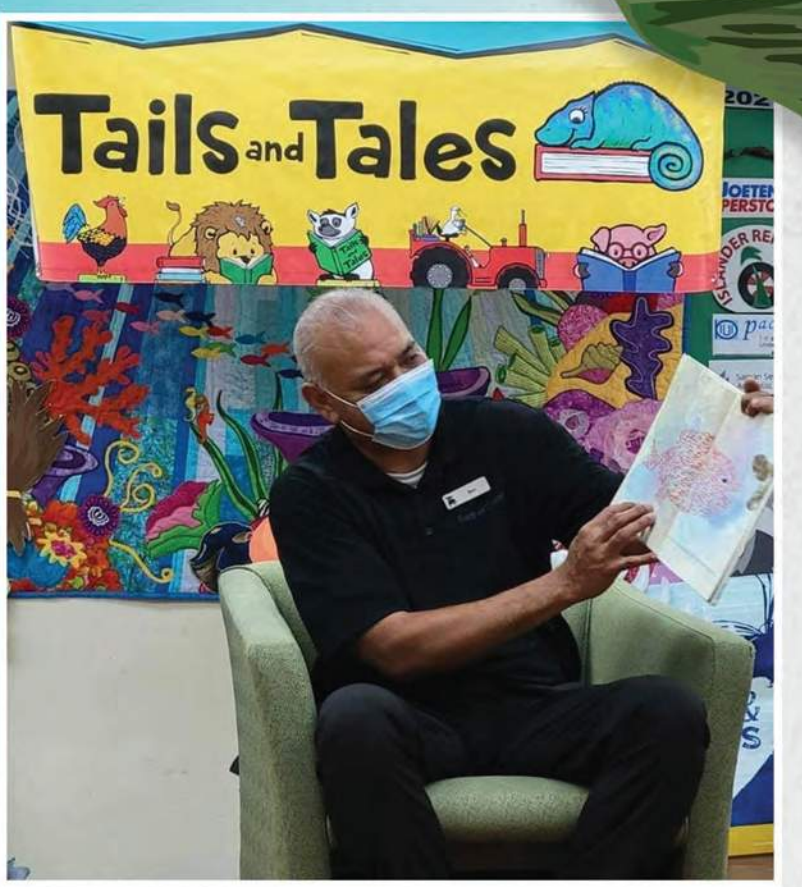
Marati assured that Bank of Guam's CSR is not a "calendar" event or activity but is part of the bank's core existence. "CSR lives daily for Bank of Guam, and is not limited to a day or week or even month. While we saw it grow pre-pandemic and certainly now, we have initiated convenient and safe outreaches to assist our community. The needs of the underserved remain a deeply important focus for us, pandemic or not," she said.

"Listening to our community has been the hallmark of our presence. While face-to-face impact is desirable, we continue to listen and reach out when it is safe and when we can. But we have also learned to pivot to digital and virtual outreaches as our community has also adapted to other channels of connection. We continue to reach out to non-profits and village leaders and consistently listen to what their current and future needs are. We make adjustments as their needs change," Marati added.

Since our founding in 1972, Bank of Guam has embodied the true spirit of corporate social responsibility, and we are committed to the highest standards of corporate citizenship.

Our culture and values are rooted in service, integrity, and taking personal responsibility for our actions, outcomes, and reputation. As a leading financial solutions provider in Guam and the Marianas Islands, we connect people to financial opportunities and make a difference in the communities in which we live and work. Given the span of our workers, clients, suppliers, and partners, we recognize the reach of our business practices and our public accountability.

Corporate social responsibility is vitally important to who we are as a company. Our commitment will ensure that we rigorously adhere to the highest standards in ethical behavior, environmental sustainability, data security and more. We encourage participation across our organization, and we will work with external stakeholders to continually advocate on behalf of our dedicated workforce, improve our workplaces, contribute to the communities we serve, and ensure our actions are socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible.



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TRIPLE J

'Our driving force is the communities and people we serve'

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Think Triple J Enterprises Inc. and the first thing that springs to mind is its corporate slogan: "Customers First."

So much so that the company—which spans from car dealerships to real estate and consumer goods—has become one of those that has made a name for itself as one of the foremost purpose-driven companies in the CNMI. Not only do they deliver quality products and services, but they also use their time, resources, and commitment to effect improvements and changes for the better. This social responsibility that seems like a second skin already is what has earned Triple J the community's trust and confidence.

According to Triple J Enterprises, Inc. CEO and chairman Robert Jones, their driving force is the communities and people that they serve. "Triple J's 'Customers First' commitment extends to our community involvement. For almost four decades, our group has strived to improve lives and build better communities through our philanthropic contributions, financially and voluntarily with time and personal involvement, to various nonprofit causes as well as to individuals," he said.

Jones said that Triple J also recognize its responsibility as a corporate citizen to adhere to high standards of ethics and example in the way it operates its many businesses. "These founding values have carried us well and will continue to guide us forward. …Our shareholders and Executive Committee take an active role in implementing initiatives that are in line with our corporate values from which the communities we serve can benefit," he added.

This was echoed by Triple J vice president Mike Sablan, who said that serving the islands is at the core of the company's business. "This is a year-round effort for our group of companies, and we strive every year to improve our commitment and contributions both internally with our employees and externally to our community. Our increased charitable giving commitments not only reflect what we can do right now but also how we will continue our support throughout the year," he said.

Sablan said that he company's strategy is grounded in community perspectives and shared vision. "We receive feedback from our many [non-government] partners who benchmark their performance against their goals, we engage our team and receive employee perspectives and feedback, and constantly review the overall impact it has on our community and refine our goals accordingly," he said.

Whether during normal times or when a super typhoon hits, during an economic downturn or like today's pandemic, Triple J is on top of its game, making sure that needed services are dispensed to the people who need it, he said. This mindset was at the forefront of the company's response when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. "The welfare of our team, our customers, and our community was our top priority at the start of the pandemic," Sablan said.

This meant that Triple J adopted a group-wide infectious disease control policy to help the company's team prepare for and respond to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, while continuing to keep their doors open and maintaining normal business operations as much as possible, he said.

This not only allowed Triple J to provide uninterrupted critical services to the community but it also ensured that its employees continued to receive a paycheck to support their families.

"Yes, it is precisely in times of crisis where a sense of unity and belonging are important for any community. We are continually assessing the short-term and long-term effects that COVID-19 will have on our community and the subsequent needs of our [non-government] partners and the community at large," Sablan added.

To help the government, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., COVID-19 Task Force and the community battle the pandemic, Triple J donated hundreds of N-90 hospital masks to CHCC in the early days of the pandemic when they learned that the hospital staff and first responders were running low on much needed supplies. "We also [offered] our assistance in sourcing critical equipment and [personal protective equipment] by tapping the assistance of our [U.S.] mainland suppliers. When many businesses closed or restricted their business activities, Triple J offered immediate assistance in the form of discounted meals from our restaurant group for first responders and front-liners," Sablan said.

The company supported the Public School System with meals distributions in schools by helping to provide staff to assist in the distributions, benefitting hundreds of families in need of basic meals, Sablan added. Also, Triple J directed over $52,000 in educational tax credits toward every public school and many private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in 2020 and 2021.

The company also continued its annual support of organizations and their causes. These organizations include the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Northern Mariana Islands Futbol Association, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Guam/CNMI Make a Wish Foundation, Saipan Fisherman's Association, Tan Siu Lin Foundation's Field of Heroes event benefiting the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Tasi to Table Foundation, CNMI Soroptimist Club, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and 4-H Camp's Magalahi Summer Camp.

Triple J's employees themselves are also quite active when it comes to helping the community. Jones believes that an organization will be able to reach its goals if everyone in the company is on board the ship and he sees that with each and every employee of Triple J.

"We are proud to have employees who share a heart for service—their generosity continues to inspire us time and time again, and they've stepped up in a huge way during this really challenging time. From volunteering their personal time to islandwide beach cleanups, 5K runs, and other community events each year, to helping serve meals to families who lost their jobs during the pandemic," he said.

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NMI MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

Binding the past, present, and future

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

One of the most common feedback from tourists and other who visit the CNMI is a consistent need to experience, see, taste, and hear local culture. That culture that is unique to the CNMI is what makes the islands a unique destination and it is worthy to note that the Marianas Visitors Authority and the CNMI government now recognize this as a very good tool to attract more visitors to the islands.

More than the passing tourists, though, the CNMI Museum believes that its existence is not merely intended to distill the past of the CNMI for the entertainment of tourists but also as a teaching tool to educate the local community. That is why the NMI Museum, headed by Executive Director Daniel Aquino, believes that it is crucial for the museum to engage with the community.

"Community activities allow us to engage, interact, and educate residents about our program and the historical artifacts that are in our possession," he said.

He said that many tourists visit the NMI Museum just to see the iconic original entrance of the building. Did you know that? For many who don't know, this is why the museum is expanding its outreach to schools and other agencies to teach them about this "fun fact" and educate them on why the museum needs to exist in the first place.

"...The NMI Museum is one of CNMI's iconic places because the museum is situated in the Old Japanese Hospital, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974," Aquino said. "Locating the NMI Museum in the Old Japanese Hospital was only supposed to be temporary until funding for a new state-of-the-art facility can be allocated. ....The adjacent building was the Japanese Laboratory and was recently repaired and repurposed to serve as the museum gift and coffee shop to generate revenue. ...For now, Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and the Saipan Northern Island Delegation provide us with support and funding to maintain, repair and upgrade our facility."

To date, Aquino and his team are responsible for the stewardship of priceless collections, photos, documents and historical artifacts: from the Pre-Latte and Latte Period; Spanish Colonization; Freycinet Collection: drawings from the French ship Uranie that came to the islands and drew what life was like in 1819; the German period; Japanese period; Unification with the United States (Covenant); World War II artifacts; internment camps and the Nuestra Senora De La Concepcion collection.

Apart from showcasing the CNMI's history to the community and tourists, Aquino said the two priorities of the NMI Museum are accessibility and sustainability. "Our first goal is accessibility—to allow access to the museum. For example, the entrance fee was waived and we are now open on Saturdays. There is now a certified museum tour guide (Archie Ajoste) to provide educational tours upon request," he said.

"Our second goal is sustainability. Our vendor stalls are now completed. Rather than doing the traditional way of renting tents for our events, we built the stalls to generate revenue. Interested individuals or companies can rent these stalls at affordable rates and sell local products or local food delicacies," he added.

For October, the NMI Museum has a lineup of activities that involves improvements to its surroundings and fun and entertainment that family and friends will enjoy.

"James Macaranas, Wenny Haruo and I, assist the Saipan Mayor's office with the roadside maintenance, trash collection, and beautification from Middle Road up to Kensington Hotel in San Roque. We also assist in the maintenance of the Ada Gym and Sugar King Park grounds. ... The vendor stall outside aims to increase visibility and traffic around the museum," Aquino said.

"On Oct. 31, 2021 we will be partnering with the Rotary Club of Saipan, Saipan Rotaracts to host our first Halloween Night at the Museum. There will be other non-profit organizations and organizations joining us to pass out candies. ...After the Halloween event, we will be utilizing our vendor stalls to have our 'Fiesta Friday' evening event where residents and tourists can come to the museum and enjoy local performances and purchase local foods and crafts," he added.

The Christmas holiday is fast approaching and the array of dancing Christmas lights showcased every year at the NMI Museum is always eye-catching. "We will be adding more lights and other things to make our grounds more attractive and to increase the islands' festive spirit. We will also be hosting a Christmas tree competition similar to what we did last year and offering prizes for the best Christmas tree decoration. Our Christmas tree competition was very different from other competitions because we were able to give prizes to all schools that participated and we are very thankful to the members of the Legislature, and businesses who sponsored prizes," Aquino said.

"I believe that everything we do at the NMI Museum benefits the people and children of the CNMI. Christmas has been a traditional holiday that is enjoyed by everyone and, with COVID-19 affecting everyone is some way, we need to have more positive activities that distract our attention from COVID-19 and what is going on around the world. Scientific studies reveal that visiting museums are good places to relax and de-stress. The holiday season are cheerful times but there are significant studies that also reveal that depression hits many people during these times and so we want to provide a positive place for residents to come and enjoy the holiday spirit," Aquino added.

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HALLOWEEN NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Making a positive impact is a part of our purpose

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Visit an IT&E customer service person at their office in Chalan Lau Lau or call one from wherever you are and you can expect an answer that greets you, "We are happy to help." This and other small touches create rich customer experiences that lead to long-term relationships that is based on trust and confidence. And that extends to not just caring for their customers but also to the community that knits everyone.

"Making a positive social impact is a part of our purpose. It is our duty as members of the community and as a group of people that love and care about our islands. IT&E is committed to doing its part to help the community thrive, protect and develop our youth, promote health and wellness, preserve the environment and honor the vibrant cultures of the Marianas," said IT&E general manager Rose Soledad.

"As the needs of our community change, so does IT&E's strategy for community giving. We do our best to allocate our support to the causes that will most benefit the community. … While IT&E does not have a team in charge of Corporate Social Responsibility per se, community giving initiatives and requests for support are a top priority for IT&E's marketing team and its Employee Social Events Committee. In addition, many associates at the management and other levels in the company are involved with our mission to give back to the people we serve," Soledad added.

For IT&E, community outreach has no fixed schedule and no time limit as they donate communication services to organizations for lengthy durations. These organizations include the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the CNMI Community and Youth Centers, 500 Sails, and other programs to support their goals and mission that improve the quality of life for our community.

IT&E also does its best to support events that promote the youth, sports, care for the environment, economic growth, health, women empowerment, to name a few, by supporting these organizations: NMI Basketball Federation Interscholastic League and other youth sports, MINA's Green Gala, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Marianas Health LLC, CNMI Women's Association, and more. Most recently, IT&E was designated as a drop-off location for Toys for Tots.

Soledad said that when the pandemic started, many things were put on hold but IT&E continued to help the community by overcoming challenges. "In partnership with the Division of Youth Services, IT&E increased the bandwidth of the donated internet services at all the functioning Youth and Community Centers in the CNMI. This was done to provide internet access for students' online learning program that was implemented as a result of the pandemic," she said.

"From March to May 2020, IT&E removed data caps for all subscribers so that students can continue online learning, employees could work from home, and families could stay connected with loved ones and get important pandemic-related news and updates. During this time IT&E also did not apply payment deadlines, late fees or suspensions to alleviate the financial strain for subscribers and then actively worked with subscribers on payment plans for balances," she added.

Aside from helping its subscribers with their bills payment and extra services, IT&E also went out of its way to help the CNMI achieve the 80% vaccination rate by making some of their offices available as COVID-19 vaccination sites. "IT&E supported the vaccination effort by also white-listing the Vaccinate CNMI websites for mobile subscribers so that they can register to get their vaccinations and access more information online without using up their data buckets," Soledad said.

"Our social responsibility programs truly inspire IT&E employees. By giving back to our community, we show our associates that they are a part of delivering connections that matter in more ways than one. …We collect feedback and input with a grassroots approach to our CSR. We connect personally with members of our community directly and we use this feedback to understand what needs must be met and decide how we can step in to assist."

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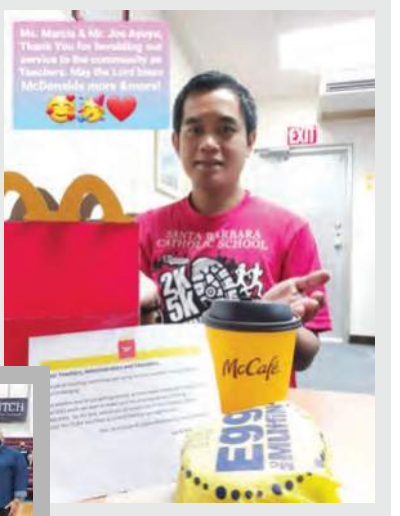
"It is fitting to recognize hardworking people in the Marianas."



McDonald's makes sure that they do not only have love that they give out to customers but also the drive and passion to continuously give to the community.

McDonald's offers more than just food to the community

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

In April 2020, McDonald's worldwide launched its corporate social responsibility plan that is based on the five tenets of food, sourcing, planet, people and community and the Ayuyu family, which owns the franchise on Saipan and in Guam, took to this initiative like fish to water. In fact, social and community engagements in the CNMI is already second nature to them.

From repainting and maintaining several bus stops, to making donations to sports and athletics events, McDonald's Saipan has over the years assisted and supported youth development, foundations, partnerships with the Public School System, educational entities, promotion of human welfare, working with other social organizations, and environment protection.

Early this year, McDonald's Saipan showed its support and belief in strengthening the local workforce by donating educational tax credit amounting to $2,500 to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. That was the fifth time the company has donated to NMTI and its cash donations to the educational institution have now reached over $20,000 in all.

In Guam, McDonald's Guam supports youth sports, islandwide cleanups, the nonprofit "Rainbow For All Children-Guam," and the Easter Drive-Thru Egg Giveaway.

Last week, McDonald's gave away free breakfast meals to Guam and Saipan educators.

Natalie Mable A. Glenn, who is McDonald's executive assistant to the president, said that recognizing a sector in the community is not something new to McDonald's as they are always involved in giving back.

"We really want to express our heartfelt thank you for to all of them in withstanding all the challenges that the pandemic has brought to our community this past year. ...McDonald's Saipan and Guam are glad to put educators at the forefront and remind them that they fill an important roles, especially this time," she said.

In a similar vein, McDonald's gave away for one week last year "Thank You" meals for all front-liners, including the CNMI's health care workers, Department of Public Safety officers, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services personnel, and members of the COVID-19 Task Force. "It is fitting to recognize hardworking people in the Marianas," she said.

Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, who was at the Thank You Breakfast meal launch, said that McDonald's Saipan has been at the frontline since Day 1 of the pandemic.

"Keeping people fed during a pandemic has been important. ...The 'Thank You Breakfast Meal' for educators is a great treat from one family to another family of front-liners and we really appreciate McDonald's and Mr. and Mrs. Ayuyu for their leadership because they understand what it is like to be in the frontlines, implementing mitigation protocols and trying to ensure that everyone is safe and happy," he said.

McDonald's Saipan was one of the first establishments the opened its doors to customers in June last year, after three months of having no dine-in due to COVID-19 concerns and just catering to drive-thru customers. Based on research and compliance with the COVID-19 Task Force and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, McDonald's has created a safe dine-in environment that is secure for both customers and employees.

To help customers navigate their way inside the restaurant during the pandemic, they put up signages on tables to inform customers which areas had been disinfected and not. Other signages also informed customers of simple rules and guideline that makes their McDonald's "customer journey" highly satisfactory.

For better customer engagement, McDonald's was able to provide unique services such as the McDonald's '"Mobile, Order and Pay" app where customers can download the app for free, register, order their food and go to the store to pick it up—no more lines as waiting time is lessened and sometimes there is no line at all.

Although launched in 2016, the pandemic made people rely on it more. "We are happy with the turn out of our app users. Not only do they get fast service and fresh, warm McDonald's food items, the app allows people to earn points that they can use to avail discounts or freebies and know the latest promos that help them save money," said marketing manager Anna Olaes.

The current slogan of McDonald's worldwide is "I'm Lovin' It" and here in the CNMI, McDonald's makes sure that they do not only have love that they give out to customers but also the drive and passion to continuously give to the community.

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For questions or inquiries please contact Marcia E. Ayuyu or Ana Olaes at admin@jcamcd.com or at telephone no. (670)235-8761

Marpac: Helping other companies achieve their social responsibilities

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Now on its 48th year, Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.—more popularly known as Marpac—not only believes in implementing their own projects and programs that help the community, they also help and assist other partners or businesses in the community to achieve theirs.

That, according to resident manager Guy Pudney, is the secret behind Marpac's success—all derived from respect, cooperation, and bringing everyone together.

"Marpac gives importance to our social responsibility to the community and, equally so, in helping other companies or businesses lead the way in demonstrating their own. For us, it's not just about being a good partner but the winner in the end is the community," he said.

He said that Marpac has a Corporate Social Responsibility team that is composed of volunteers—from staff to managers. He himself is part of that team.

"We always meet and on our agenda are discussions on how to be innovate and think of different ways to help the community. …This definitely motivates our employees to do more and, when a project is accomplished, it makes everyone proud," he added.

Pudney said the COVID-19 pandemic limited Marpac's efforts to conduct outreach programs due to health and safety concerns but they still managed to continue with some while still observing proper health protocols.

. "…We have been active though in beach cleanups—not as a full company but I know each one of us in the company and our families in their own time have done things to help out," he said. "We did adopt an intersection at Quartermaster Road in cooperation with RB Camacho. Just this week, I reached out to see if we can adopt a bus shelter or bus stop."

Pudney said that for all the community outreach or program they have done and keep doing, they do all that without any expectations of rewards or thanks. "We do it for the community and the gratitude we feel when we give back to the community is through the roof. …We feel it's the right thing to do and, if we get any praise, we take that back with us to empower and inspire us to the next step. We are pretty much focused on giving back to the community than asking for any praises."

Marpac has many more things in the pipeline and being planned. "Part of those plans is to continue helping other companies accomplish their own CSR projects by donating water beverages for their employees. Marpac will always do our part to help the community and hope other partners in the community will step in as well because if work collectively ,we can accomplish the goal of a better CNMI," Pudney added.

SHIRLEY'S COFFEE SHOP

More than just coffee, it's about giving back to the community

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

For a hearty and soulful meal with family and friends, Shirley's Coffee Shop is always top of the mind. That's a given. But they do not only nourish hungry tummies or quench thirst; behind the scenes they also do worthwhile projects and practice good community stewardship.

According to operations manager Noelle Reyes, corporate social responsibility is a part of their company's core values and culture and everyone in the company gets involved. "We're not just in the business to make money but also to give back to the community. …Shirley's tries to open an equal chance of volunteering opportunities to its employees whenever possible. No matter what CSR activities or causes the company engages with, we try our best to involve as many employees as we can," she said.

"All of us are inspired to do outreach in the community and we know that the existence of our business depends largely on the…community," she added.

During the pandemic, Shirley's Coffee Shop was on its toes. Reyes said that they continued to do business but with the health and safety of their customers as the No. 1 priority. That included providing masks bearing their company logo to all employees and customers .

"While majority of the restaurants on island had to close due to the COVID scare, Shirley's remained operating to [provide bento] orders for our front-liners. … We continued our partnership with the CNMI BIBA Program, offering healthier menu items to our customers—menu items that have been approved by our local dieticians," she said.

Shirley's Coffee Shop recently partnered with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public and Private Partnership program, along with Shirley's Football Club, to adopt four medians in Garapan. These are the medians across Shirley's/Century Hotel, D'Torres to Tun Kiku's Building, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the American Memorial Park tennis court.

Reyes said that Shirley's Coffee Shop has sustained its partnership with he Marianas Visitors Authority by registering both Shirley's locations with MVA's Safe Travels Program. This assures its customers that both Shirley's Coffee Shop locations in the CNMI subscribe to the CNMI government's health protocols. "As of this October 2021, all employees of Shirley's Coffee Shop have been fully vaccinated," she said.

Shirley's also provides free lawn care to Mount Carmel School, which is adjacent to its Susupe location.

Reyes said that Corporate Social Responsibility is so ingrained in Shirley's operations that their aim is to always help. That includes donating meals to feed the CNMI's front-liners—teachers, nurses, veterans, police officers and fire fighters.

"Every year, we strive to complete one to two beach cleanups but for this year, we have committed to adopt and maintain the upkeep of four medians in Garapan via our recent partnership with GCEA's PPP program. We've committed to maintain these four medians, check them every quarter and revamp the areas as needed in the next five years."

In a nod to the ecological spirit of the times, Shirley's Coffee Shop is also going green and that includes removal of plastic straws and offering paper straws instead, and using biodegradable package bags instead of plastic bags and containers for take-out.

"We also adhere to paperless ordering and our continuous subscription to a point-of-sale system that enables our dining team to utilize mini-POS tablets," she said.

Shirley's Coffee Shop has also partnered with the CNMI BIBA Healthy Program since 2016 in order to serve healthier meals. That includes offering low-calories meal options, removing condiments from the table that could boost sodium intake, and offering dishes that can be modified to have less or no salt.

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TANHOLDINGS

Guided by the 'I Serve, I Give Back' philosophy'

TanHoldings Corp. is known not only as the mother company of several other companies in the CNMI that provide employment and help the economy grow but it is also a powerhouse when it comes to its soft skills—well-known for not only donating to many worthy causes but also engaging the community in many ways, whether it's about taking care of the environment through beach cleanups, to promoting health and wellness through fun runs and bike runs and organizing sports activities that benefit the young and old.

According to Merlie Tolentino, executive director of Tan Siu Liu Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, the corporation's management and employees are guided by the "I Serve, I Give Back" philosophy.

"They are encouraged and inspired to get involved in activities that benefit the community. We have employees who volunteer for beach cleanups and other beautification drives, coach sports teams, and mentor students on work internship… Corporate Social Responsibility is an integral part of the TanHoldings culture and values system," she said. "We believe that sacrificing one's time and efforts to help others is what true volunteerism is all about. It is the yardstick by which our character and value as individuals or as an organization will ultimately be measured."

For 50 years, TanHoldings, through the Tan Siu Foundation and its different strategic business units have consistently supported and advocated for education, environmental stewardship, health and wellness, sports, and mentoring and leadership program.

"After the CNMI was struck by Super Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, TanHoldings, through the TSL Foundation, donated relief goods to affected families. In 2018, the CNMI was hit by another super typhoon (Yutu) and again the TSL Foundation through its donors and partners donated relief goods to the community and its employees and even provided temporary shelters to affected families. Less than a month after Super Typhoon Yutu flattened the islands, TanHoldings donated $1 million for the relief efforts from the back-to-back super typhoons," Tolentino said.

TanHoldings also provided assistance to Rota and Tinian after both islands were hit by Typhoon Mangkhut and Yutu. In 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, TanHoldings and the TSL Foundation provided face masks and gift bags to front-liners. TanHoldings also allowed the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to utilize one of the hotels (Kanoa Resort) operated by the company as an alternate care site and quarantine facility for COVID-19 patients and inbound passengers/returning residents, Tolentino added.

Tolentino said that there is no limit or season that would deter TanHoldings' ongoing engagement with the community. "Our Corporate Social Responsibility knows no time. It's a continues commitment. …When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers launched an initiative that would help transform destination and village facilities in the CNMI as it prepares to welcome back tourists, TanHoldings was one of the first companies to support the campaign (known as Public Private Partnership). TanHoldings and its SBUs have adopted more than 10 destination sites and village facilities and spearheaded improvement projects for these spots."

"Seeing how the community enjoys using the facilities we helped transform for their safety and convenience, the increasing number of children getting involved in sports, students we supported through scholarships finishing school and returning or staying here to work and serve the community, and residents being more aware of the importance of taking care of our islands and doing something to keep the CNMI clean are encouraging us to continue our commitment to make the Marianas a better place to live," she added.

iServe. iGive back.

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DEA accepting unused/expired meds, vapes, e-cigs for disposal

Tomorrow, Oct. 23 from 10am to 2pm, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will be accepting unused or expired medication, and vape pens or e-cigarette devices with batteries removed, at various sites in the CNMI and Guam. The safe and anonymous disposal of these items is part of the DEA's "National Take Back Initiative."

New or used needles and syringes will not be accepted, said the DEA Wednesday.

In the CNMI, the disposal sites on Saturday are the Commonwealth Health Center Outpatient Pharmacy on Saipan, the Tinian Health Center THC Pharmacy, and the Rota Health Center.

In Guam, there will be five disposal sites: Agana Shopping Center, Andersen Air Force Base BX Main Base Exchange, Dededo Mayor's Office, Merico Mayor's Office, and the Naval Base Guam Navy Exchange Food Court.

Those interested in learning more about this initiative, as well as those with questions about the CNMI's and Guam's disposal sites, can visit the DEA's website at www.dea.gov or can call (808) 541-1930. ***(Joshua Santos)***

Guam logs 3 more COVID-related deaths

Guam has posted three more COVID-19-related deaths.

The Joint Information Center reported Tuesday that Guam's 224th COVID-19 related death was a partially vaccinated 67-year-old male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Sep. 25 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Oct. 6.

The 225th was a partially vaccinated 62-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 13 and was pronounced dead on arrival at GRMC on Oct. 13.

The 226th was an unvaccinated 53-year-old male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Oct. 5 and was pronounced dead at GRMC on Oct. 19.

JIC also reported that, as of Tuesday, 50 individuals in Guam are hospitalized for COVID-19, the JIC also reported. ***(Joshua Santos)***

Saipan LauLau Development Inc DBA LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort in Saipan, MP seeks Guest Service Representative who can communicate & service guests in Korean language. High School Diploma & Fluency in Korean language req'd. Email resume to laolaobaygolfnresort@gmail.com

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date:	Closing Date
2021-040	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 per annum	October 8, 2021	October 25, 2021 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
Kagman Community Center, P.O. Box 501000 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950

THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES IS SOLICITING APPLICANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING STIPEND PROGRAM
CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAM and EMERGENCY SHELTER

PARENTS Anonymous® Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

ISLAND	ROTA
Children & Youth Program Two (2) Program Workers	Children & Youth Program One (1) Program Worker
Emergency Shelter Four (4) Program Workers	
STIPEND at $7.75 PER HOUR	

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Assist with Parent Education Classes, Parents Anonymous®, Inc. activities, After School Program, Youth Sessions, Parent Sessions, Community Sessions and the Emergency Shelter.
- Transport participants to and from program sessions.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:
- Must be (18) years or older and enjoy being with children.
- Have 1 year experience in early childhood or school setting.
- Participate in training sessions provided by the Division of Youth Services.
- Commit at least twenty (20) hours per week to the assigned program.
- Commit to at least one (1) year to the Programs.
- Complete all necessary documents (Application form with Resume/Police Clearance/ Traffic Clearance/Business License/Tax ID Card Number, etc.)
- Have valid CNMI driver's license and a clear traffic record.
- Have not been convicted of a felony.
- Provide additional documents, if needed.

APPLICATION PICK UP: Kagman Community Center, DYS Administration Office in Capitol Hill
DOWNLOAD APPLICATION: www.dys.gov.mp or www.dcca.gov.mp
APPLICATION SUBMISSION: Kagman Community Center, DYS Administration Office in Capitol Hill
APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2021, 4:30 P.M.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Tanaka or Junnie Masga at 237-1017/1018 or through email at jtanaka@dys.gov.mp or jmasga@dys.gov.mp .

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD/DCCA-002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 16, 2021 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"OLEAI SPORTS COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS Regarding this RFP can be made to Mr. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, Director Office of Planning and Development at: kodep.uludong@opd.gov.mp. on or before 4:30 p.m. November 03, 2021.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

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Never satisfied until you are
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FAX: 288-4488
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Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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'PATRIOTIC EMPLOYER' AWARDEES

JOSHUA SANTOS

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presents Commonwealth Utilities Corp. supervisor Joseph Muña, fourth from left, and CUC chief of administration Betty Terlaje, center, with the ESGR "Patriotic Employer" award, which recognizes employers who have supported employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve. From left, ESGR CNMI area chair emeritus in charge of employer outreach Rose Igitol; ESGR volunteer Joann Aquino; long-time Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and U.S. Army Reservist Robert Lieto; Muña; Terlaje; ESGR CNMI area Committee chair Dr. Rita Sablan; and CUC executive director Gary Camacho at CUC's main office's conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building. Muña and Terlaje were nominated to receive the award by Lieto.

JOSHUA SANTOS

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve presents William S. Reyes Elementary School principal Lynn Sharon O. Mendiola, third from left, with the ESGR "Patriotic Employer" award. From left, WSR vice principal Joselyn Manibusan, WSR registrar and U.S. Army Reservist Roque Pulido; Mendiola; ESGR CNMI area Committee chair Dr. Rita Sablan; and ESGR CNMI area chair emeritus in charge of employer outreach Rose Igitol at Mendiola's office. Mendiola was nominated to receive the award by Pulido.

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857/58
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Website: www.cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

*** October 28, 2021 ***

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's 2nd Floor Main Conference Room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan. However, pursuant to Governor Torres' Executive Orders and Directives on the ongoing threat from the COVID-19 pandemic and limited space available, access to the Commission's meeting will also be available via video conference.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes: September 29, 2021

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS:
A. Report by the Chairman
B. Report by the Executive Director

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
A. Casino Licensee – Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") – Updates:
1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
a) Status of IPI's request for extension of the IGF construction deadline per CLA Amendment #6.
b) Status of Tower Cranes 1, 5 and 6 at IPR
2. IPI Personnel Matters:
a) Status of Employee Payroll
b) Status of unpaid payroll & severance pay for employees already off-island
c) Others
B. IPI Financial Matters:
1. Status of IPI's FINAL Annual Audit Report (for the year ended December 31, 2020)
2. Status of the 2020 & 2021 Annual Exclusive Casino License Fees. Due Aug 12th each year
3. Status of the 2020 & 2021 Annual Casino Regulatory Fees. Due Oct 1st each year
C. Other Miscellaneous Matters

V. OLD BUSINESS:
A. Fiscal Year 2021 CCC Citizen-Centric Report. Due on Oct 30th annually

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
A. Public Law No. 22-08 (FY 2022 Budget – Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2022)
B. **Notification** of Issuance of Provisional Casino Gaming Vendor Licenses:
1. International Game Technology ("IGT"). Manufacturer and distributor of electronic gaming equipment and related products and services. Issued Date: 10/24/21
Expiration Date: 1/31/22
2. Konami Gaming, Inc. Manufacturing, development, sales, installation and service of gaming equipment and custom Casino Management Systems. Issued Date: 10/24/21
Expiration Date: 1/31/22
3. Gaming Laboratories International, LLC ("GLI"). Development of electronic gaming machine standards and related gaming service provider. Issued Date: 10/24/21
Expiration Date: 1/31/22
C. **Recommended for Approval** for a two (2) year Regular Casino Gaming Vendor License.
1. Dallmeier Electronic GmbH & Co. KG ("Dallmeier") Manufacturer and Distributor of Electronic Monitoring & Surveillance Equipment & related services.
Existing License Issued on 09/20/19 and Expired on 09/19/21

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
A. Consult with Legal Counsel
B. Report by the CCC Divisions (Compliance, Audit and Enforcement)
C. CCC Personnel Matters

VIII. ADJOURNMENT
The Commission reserves the right to amend this Agenda and take action on the amended Agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary. For those interested in joining or attending the meeting via video conference, please contact the Commission at info@cnmicasinocommission.com for instructions on how to log-in to the conference site.

Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2021

Opening date: October 11, 2021 **Closing date: October 29, 2021**

Positions: (3) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial-I (CPA Rota)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF-I (CPA Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 2021.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
PHONE: (670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WEBSITE:WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION Project No. CPA-SA-007-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Construction, CPA-SA-007-19.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Angie Aguigui, at the CPA Administration Office at angie.aguigui@cnmiports.com

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office or emailed to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Monday, October 25, 2021.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: October 6, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB-003

SUBMISSION DATE: November 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"BEACH ROAD IMPROVEMENT, PHASE 2, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 08, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 26, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 03, 2021** to **Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MICHAEL A. BORJA
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/15/2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
A. Opinion on how to maintain the public health safety from Rota and keeping services (R.Glass)
VII. Director's Report
A. Financial Report
B. CNMI-Tyler Intergovernment Software Update
C. Update on Proposed Regulations
1. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
2. Addiction Professional
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
1. Senate Bill 22-08 "CNMI Higher Education Act of 2021"
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
• Peter Geissler – Radiology Technology applicant
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

Couple struggles with elderly cat's declining health

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been together 39 years, and we generally get along very well. We've always had dogs and cats, and we currently have two of each. While my wife loves all animals, I'm a dog person. I don't dislike cats, but I don't really care for them. The cats and I tend to ignore each other.

We have one who's 20 years old. While he doesn't appear to be in any pain, I suspect he has dementia. He has poor balance. He stumbles into walls and cabinets and has fallen down the stairs a number of times. Recently, he has been peeing in my den and garage. That, I can't ignore.

I think it's time to put the cat down. My wife is calling me cold and heartless. I think when I've lost my mind enough to pee in my den or garage, I hope someone will be compassionate enough to help me go. I'm starting to hate that cat.

FAVORS DOGS IN EL PASO

DEAR FAVORS DOGS: That poor animal should be examined by a veterinarian to determine why he is stumbling and falling, and whether the problem can be remedied. (The elderly dog of a friend of mine kept running into things and ultimately had successful cataract surgery.) As to the cat's inappropriate choice of a place to relieve himself, the problem may be as simple as a curable bladder infection -- unless he has picked up on the fact that you would like to see him dead and is doing it to get back at you.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Tom," and I just spent the weekend with his older brother, "George." George spent most of the weekend mocking and mimicking me, and he even made fun of my chronic health condition. Tom kept telling me not to be so sensitive and to ignore George's "sense of humor." Afterward, I told Tom I wouldn't remain silent in the future, and I wished he had said something like, "That's enough, George," on my behalf.

Tom insists it isn't his place. He thinks I should accept George as he is "since we all have our faults." While I want to maintain my relationship with Tom, I need to limit my exposure to George, whose behavior I regard as abusive. Does this seem reasonable?

TIRED OF THE TEASING

DEAR TIRED: Reasonable, yes. Whether it is possible may be questionable. I agree that George's behavior was abusive. It's a shame Tom was afraid to stand up to his older brother, but because he wouldn't intervene, you would have been within your rights to stand up for yourself, tell him his ridicule wasn't funny and leave.

DEAR ABBY: I am 48 and married to a widower in his early 60s. Not long ago we moved into a 55-plus community. The problem is, every time we meet someone, they ask my husband why he robbed the cradle. I'm sick of hearing it. My husband is a warm, caring, loving man, who just laughs and says, "Yep!" How can I rebut those comments when they come, because my husband doesn't seem to be able? He wants everyone to like him, so he never makes waves.

NOT FROM THE CRADLE

DEAR NOT FROM THE CRADLE: The comments aren't meant as an attack on your marriage. The next time someone says it, pipe up and say, "We were BOTH old enough to know what we wanted!"

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Docomo Pacific will not implement 10-digit dialing in CNMI on Oct. 24

Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, will not be implementing the 10-digit dialing in the CNMI on Oct. 24, 2021, but plans to do so later.

According to a Docomo Pacific news release yesterday, it said: The Federal Communications Commission has designated "988" as the service number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline effective July 16, 2022; similar to "911" for police, fire, or rescue emergencies. To make this possible, all area codes within the United States that have phone numbers beginning with "988" will now require the area code to be dialed first, followed by the local telephone number (for example: 671-988-XXXX). This will prevent calls to the National Suicide Lifeline from being automatically triggered and placed.

Guam is amongst 82 area codes that need to make this local call transition, however, the CNMI is not included on this list. As a result, starting Oct.24, 2021, all local phone calls in Guam must include the 671 area code.

Docomo Pacific is evaluating dates for possible dialing alignment in CNMI and will ensure adequate time and communication with residential and business customers. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Heavy rainfall possible Saturday through Monday

A disturbance northeast of Pohnpei is anticipated to pass near the Marianas this weekend and is expected to bring heavy rains.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, model consensus indicates the possibility of locally heavy rainfall of 3 to 6 inches across the Marianas. Such rainfall could lead to localized flooding and the potential for flash flooding.

Localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas while flash flooding could also be possible in areas of heaviest rainfall. This developing situation will continue to be monitored closely and a flash flood watch may be issued if conditions warrant

The public is advised to check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors this weekend, have a backup plan in place. ***(PR)***

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021, from 8:30am to 1:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of portions of Papago along lsa Drive, entire San Vicente, Upper Dandan and Obyan.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of a 2-inch service line leak located on the entrance to Laulau Bay Drive in San Vicente. Repairs on the water main are anticipated to be completed soon and water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates Lhttps://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

Emergency scheduled water service interruption in portions of Upper Navy Hill and Gloria Drive

There is a scheduled water service interruption on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, from 8:30am to 1:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of portions of Upper Navy Hill (above CHCC to the Tinian and Rota Liaison Building) and Gloria Drive.

The scheduled water service interruption is due to the isolation of a 2-inch service line leak located on Gloria Drive. The waterline repair is anticipated to be completed on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, at 1:30pm. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes during the period of the waterline repairs.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Makaka Beach cleanup set

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Makaka Beach in Garapan on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, from 8am to 11am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives at Makaka Beach between the ABC Store and the Casino at 7:30am.

Water will be provided; bring reusable water bottles.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of October 22, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of the Mayor of Tinian	10/07/2021 TSm-2022-001	Tree Stumps Removal & Disposal	Tachogna, Taga, & Jones Beach	Shoreline	Approved* 10/18/2021
2. Department of Public Lands	10/20/2021 SMS-2001-X-213-A1	Koblerville Homestead Subdivision	Koblerville, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HA HA! I HAVE TURNED MYSELF INVISIBLE!
BY REMOVING MY CLOTHING, I CAN PERPETRATE ANY CRIME UNDETECTED!
I HAVE COMPLETE FREEDOM! I CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING!
CALVIN! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING IN THE COOKIE JAR WITHOUT YOUR CLOTHES ON?!?

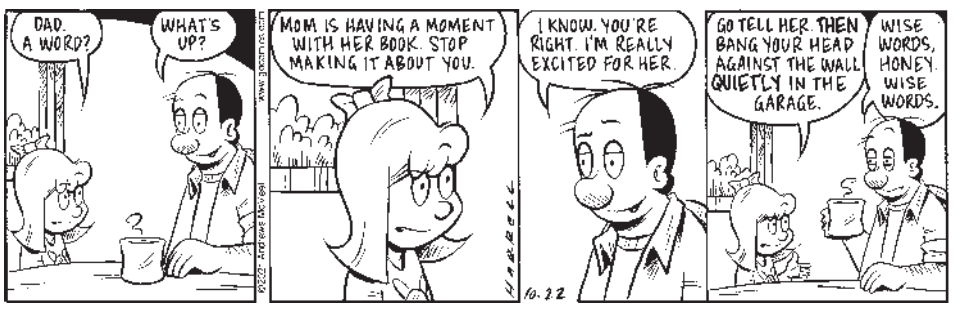
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LARRY, DARLING, THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT YOU'RE A WEREWOLF
THAT'S UTTER NONSENSE, MY DEAREST...
CARE FOR A DOGGY TREAT?
AWK-WARD

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD. A WORD?
WHAT'S UP?
MOM IS HAVING A MOMENT WITH HER BOOK. STOP MAKING IT ABOUT YOU.
I KNOW. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M REALLY EXCITED FOR HER.
GO TELL HER. THEN BANG YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL QUIETLY IN THE GARAGE.
WISE WORDS, HONEY. WISE WORDS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I USED A DIFFERENT BRAND OF SEASONING IN THIS DISH THAN I USUALLY USE.
CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
NOT AT ALL. IT TASTES JUST AS AWFUL AS IF YOU USED THE REGULAR SEASONING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stretchy fabric
6 TV spots
9 Clean air org.
12 Greeted a bully
13 Salty expanse
14 Book spine abbr.
15 Shrimp variety
16 Fabric
18 Analyzed, as a sentence
20 Perched on
21 Chi follower
23 Hearing thing
24 Big hit
25 Web addresses
27 Dark
29 Baking tin
31 Language of Egypt
35 Sunday entree
37 Small plateau
38 Evil one
41 Proof letters
43 Sailor
44 Hibernia
45 Dresser
47 Package stamp
49 Mexican artist Kahlo
52 Slithery fish
53 Actor Stephen
54 Had a bug
55 Hwys.
56 Piercing tool
57 Cardio-boxing routine

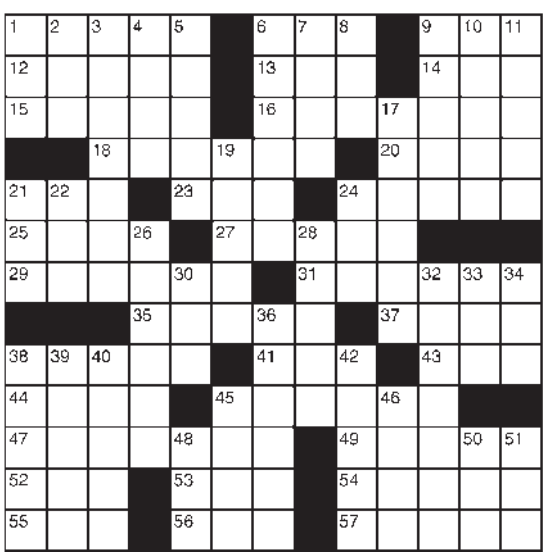
DOWN

1 JFK's veep
2 Thee
3 Gather
4 Ms. McEntire
5 Worship
6 Rearward
7 Monopoly card
8 Kenny G's instrument
9 Madonna role
10 Casual shirts
11 Hebrew letter
17 Large gong
19 Place for sweaters?
21 Young seal
22 Lanka lead-in
24 Polite address
26 Mattress part
28 In a while
30 MSN rival
32 Enchant
33 Equi-
34 Urban carrier
36 Snitch
38 Postpone
39 Goofed
40 Test tubes
42 Make lean
45 Botched
46 Met melody
48 Playwright Levin
50 Cotillion celeb
51 Commo-tion

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	R	A	T		M	O	P		A	N	E	W
E	A	C	H		E	N	O		G	O	S	H
A	R	N	E		R	E	L		A	R	T	E
F	E	E	L	E	R		L	E	S	S	E	E
				M	A	I		L	A	S	E	
N	O	V	A		E	G	G	T	I	M	E	R
A	R	F			S	O	C			A	.	F
M	F	R	C	A	T	O	R		M	N	O	P
		M	A	G				D	U	A		
A	D	O	R	E	S		I	S	S	U	E	D
B	A	U	M		H	A	M		T	R	A	Y
E	T	T	E		C	O	E		E	S	S	E
D	A	H	L		T	A	R		R	A	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 10-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Tyler Ferguson, 46; Saffron Burrows, 49; Jeff Goldblum, 69; Christopher Lloyd, 83.

Happy Birthday: Keep an open mind, and be ready to compromise when dealing with domestic issues and family feuds. Take comfort in knowing your capabilities, use your strengths personally and professionally to bring people together and maintain balance, integrity and peace of mind to you and all those you encounter. Intelligence and discipline, coupled with love and understanding, will help you excel. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 24, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to how you look and present yourself to others. An offer will have more benefits than you anticipate, and your negotiation skills will help you get what you want. Don't be shy; take charge. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Let your work speak for you. Putting pressure on someone who isn't going to budge is a waste. Focus on your accomplishments and presenting you have to offer with enthusiasm and facts to ensure success. Don't spend unnecessarily. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take care of business, and show everyone your skills, intelligence and capability. Refuse to let anyone put you down or steal your thunder. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll make an exciting connection with someone who has the potential to influence your future. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take your time, observe what others do and say, and make adjustments that will help you reach your objective. Let your creative imagination lead the way, and you'll discover what you joy. Avoid unnecessary expenses and joint ventures. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Concentrate on what matters to you. Don't let the changes someone makes interfere with your train of thought or what you are pursuing. How well you perform and what you produce will be what count. Protect your reputation and status. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Expand your mind. Sign up for seminars, networking events, online presentations or anything else that will connect you to people you can learn from or count on for insight and knowledge. Keep up with technology and changes in your line of work. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Verify and disclose important information. Knowledge is power, and the more you know and understand what's going on, the easier it will be to get others to see things your way. Set a budget, and say no to temptation. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* An unexpected change will take you by surprise. It's better to be part of the solution than left behind. Listen carefully, and make valid suggestions. You'll gain the confidence and respect of others. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Say no to temptation and risky offers. Sage advice will come from someone who has known you a long time. You'll come up with a plan that can help boost your income or inspire better money management. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spend more time at home nurturing relationships and making positive changes that will make your life easier. Be innovative, put a budget in place and gather input from loved ones. Everything will go according to plan. Protect against illness and injury. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let an emotional incident slow you down or ruin your plans. Dedicate your time and money to something that will satisfy you and make a difference. A kind of romantic gesture will ward off any opposition. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Examine the way you earn or handle your money, and you'll come up with a plan that will help you save. Be careful how you treat others; a politically incorrect gesture will cause trouble that can affect your future. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, imaginative and persuasive. You are generous and stylish.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		8		4				2
			7	3	1			4
		5				7		
9		4		8		6		5
		3				1		
7			3	2	6			
8				7		5		3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	3	2	6	8	1	4	9
1	2	9	3	4	5	8	6	7
4	6	8	1	9	7	5	2	3
3	9	2	8	7	1	4	5	6
5	1	4	9	2	6	3	7	8
6	8	7	5	3	4	9	1	2
9	3	1	6	5	2	7	8	4
2	4	5	7	8	3	6	9	1
8	7	6	4	1	9	2	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ICELAND'S HOT SPRINGS — Solution: 8 letters

T	N	F	U	M	A	R	O	L	E	T	O	H	M	V
M	E	O	L	A	U	G	I	N	M	I	L	K	Y	I
G	U	M	I	H	Y	M	U	I	D	O	S	S	V	L
U	T	I	P	T	W	G	N	I	S	A	E	R	A	L
A	O	L	S	E	C	E	R	E	D	U	C	E	T	A
L	U	H	V	E	R	A	V	E	L	L	I	R	N	G
S	R	A	Z	A	N	A	R	E	N	B	A	T	H	E
T	I	I	L	M	R	G	T	T	T	E	M	C	L	M
U	S	S	A	U	E	I	A	U	T	A	L	M	A	G
R	M	E	R	I	S	E	K	M	R	A	L	N	R	V
T	T	E	A	E	Y	N	V	L	Y	E	H	P	U	I
S	Ⓦ	K	P	L	E	C	I	N	O	T	C	E	T	E
P	T	Ⓐ	E	H	G	O	K	N	R	R	E	T	A	W
A	H	L	Ⓡ	G	B	A	A	A	E	L	O	H	N	S
S	M	A	G	Ⓜ	A	D	E	E	P	P	O	O	L	S

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Algae, Areas, Attraction, Bathe, Boil, Clay, Deep, Earth, Energy, Fumarole, Gamla, Geyser, Heat, Hole, Hotel, Hveravellir, Kvika, Lake, Laugin, Magma, Magnesium, Milky, Minerals, Myvatn, Natural, Peninsula, Plate, Pools, Reduce, Rise, Shapes, Size, Sodium, Spas, Steam, Strútslaug, Sulphur, Tectonic, Temperature, Tourism, Views, Village, Warm, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Indoors

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Julius Randle, Knicks outlast Brown, Celtics in double OT

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle scored 35 points, Evan Fournier made the go-ahead 3-pointer in the second overtime and added 32 against his former team, and the New York Knicks outlasted Jaylen Brown and the Boston Celtics 138-134 on Wednesday night.

Brown scored a career-high 46 points after overcoming a bout of COVID-19, and Jayson Tatum had the biggest basket of his awful opener with a three-point play that gave Boston a 134-133 lead with 1:05 remaining.

Fournier then hit his fourth 3-pointer of the overtimes with 56 seconds to go and Derrick Rose finished it off with a basket with 22 seconds to play as the Knicks finally put away a game they seemed to have won much earlier.

The Celtics put together a push late in regulation of their first game under coach Ime Udoka and Marcus Smart tied it with a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

RJ Barrett scored all of his 19 points after halftime and Obi Toppin added a career-best 14 for the Knicks. Kemba Walker had 10 points and eight rebounds against his previous team.

Tatum had 20 points and 11 rebounds, but was 7 for 30 from the field, including 2 for 15 from 3-point range. The U.S. Olympic gold medalist missed badly on a jumper that could have won it at the end of the first overtime.

Hornets 123, Pacers 122

In Charlotte, N.C., LaMelo Ball scored 31 points, hitting seven 3-pointers, and Charlotte used a 24-0 third-period run to battle back and beat Indiana.

Indiana led 122-121 on Torrey Craig's foul shots with 12.7 left. P.J. Washington made two free throws with 4.6 seconds left before Domantas Sabonis missed from 11 feet to seal the Hornets' victory.

Ball scored 12 points in the third-period run and finished with nine rebounds and seven assists. Gordon Hayward scored 27 points for Charlotte, which got 14 each from newcomers Kelly Oubre Jr. and Ish Smith.

Sabonis scored 33 points, Malcolm Brogdon had 28, and Chris Duarte chipped in with 27 for Indiana. The Pacers had a 21-point lead early in the second half.

76ers 117, Pelicans 97

In New Orleans, Joel Embiid had 22 points and 12 rebounds, Furkan Korkmaz hit four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to also score 22 points, and Philadelphia pulled away to beat New Orleans.

A subplot of the season opener for both teams involved who wasn't playing. New Orleans was without star power forward Zion Williamson, who is recovering from surgery to repair his broken foot. The Sixers were missing disgruntled forward Ben Simmons, who was suspended one game for conduct detrimental to the team.

Brandon Ingram had 25 points for New Orleans, Nickeil Alexander-Walker, a season-opening starter at guard in his third season, scored 23 points.

Nuggets 110, Suns 98

In Phoenix, reigning NBA MVP Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 13 rebounds, leading Denver past Phoenix.

The 26-year-old Jokic earned his first MVP award last season after averaging 26.4 points, 10.8 rebounds and 8.3 assists per game. The Serbian was up to his old tricks Wednesday, scoring on a crafty variety of hook shots, 3-pointers and flat-footed jumpers. He was 13 of 22 from the field.

The Suns were playing three months after losing Game 6 of the NBA Finals to the Milwaukee Bucks. Phoenix has returned much of the same roster, including the All-Star backcourt of Chris Paul and Devin Booker, to make another run at the title.

AP

New York Knicks' Julius Randle (30) shoots over Boston Celtics' Aaron Nesmith (26) as Jayson Tatum (0) watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021 in New York.

Bulls 94, Pistons 88

In Detroit, Zach LaVine scored 15 of his 34 points in the third quarter, leading the Chicago past Detroit.

Detroit's Jerami Grant was off on an 11-foot baseline jumper with 50 seconds left, missing a chance to tie it. The Bulls sealed the victory by making free throws.

The Pistons were without rookie guard Cade Cunningham, the No. 1 overall pick, whose NBA debut was delayed by a sprained right ankle.

DeMar DeRozan had 17 points, and Lonzo Ball had 12 points in their Bulls debut. Nikola Vucevic had 10 points and 11 rebounds at halftime and finished with 15 points and 15 rebounds. Grant led the Pistons with 24 points.

Grizzlies 122, Cavaliers 121

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant had 37 points and six assists, De'Anthony Melton added 20 points and Memphis pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Cleveland.

Morant and Melton combined for 14 points down the stretch as the Cavaliers pulled within a point on a couple of occasions but could never overtake Memphis. Desmond Bane added 22 points for Memphis.

Jarrett Allen led the Cavaliers with 25 points, hitting all 11 of his shots from the field. Collin Sexton and rookie Evan Mobley added 17 points each. Cedi Osman, keyed a first-half burst and finished with 15.

Wizards 98, Raptors 83

In Toronto, Bradley Beal scored 23 points, Montrezl Harrell had 22 in his Wizards debut and Washington spoiled Toronto's homecoming.

Kyle Kuzma—acquired with Harrell in the trade that sent Russell Westbrook to the Lakers — had 11 points and 15 rebounds for Washington. Spencer Dinwiddie, acquired from the Nets in the same four-team deal, scored 13 points for the Wizards, who led by as many as 29 points to give new coach Wes Unseld Jr. a victory in his first game.

Fred VanVleet scored 12 points and rookie Scottie Barnes had 12 in his debut, but it was a disappointing performance for the Raptors, who played in Toronto for the first time since a Feb. 28, 2020, loss to Charlotte. Toronto relocated to Tampa last season because of border restrictions stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Timberwolves 124, Rockets 106

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards energized the first full-size home crowd of his nascent career with 29 points in 31 minutes in Minnesota's victory over Houston.

Karl-Anthony Towns led Minnesota with 30 points and 10 rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell added 22 points and seven assists.

Christian Wood had 16 points and nine rebounds for Houston.

Jazz 107, Thunder 86

In Salt Lake City, Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 21 rebounds to lead Utah past Oklahoma City.

Bojan Bogdanovic led Utah with 22 points, and Jordan Clarkson added 18.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 18 points for Oklahoma City.

Spurs 123, Magic 97

In San Antonio, Devin Vassell scored 19 points, Lonnie Walker added 17 and San Antonio continued its success on opening night by dominating Orlando.

San Antonio is 23-2 in season openers under coach Gregg Popovich.

Mo Bamba had 18 points for Orlando.

Kings 124, Trail Blazers 121

In Portland, Ore., Harrison Barnes scored 36 points and De'Aaron Fox added 27, and the Sacramento Kings spoiled Portland's season opener under new coach Chauncey Billups with a 124-121 victory over the Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

Richaun Holmes had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who led by as many as 18 points in the third quarter.

Portland rallied in the fourth. Damian Lillard and Jusuf Nurkic made back-to-back layups to get the Blazers within 117-111 with 3:49 to go, and Norman Powell's 3-pointer cut the margin to three.

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Braves blast 4 HRs, beat Dodgers 9-2 for 3-1 lead in NLCS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eddie Rosario homered twice in his second four-hit game of the NL Championship Series and six Atlanta pitchers combined on a four-hitter, giving the Braves a 9-2 victory Wednesday over the Los Angeles Dodgers and a commanding 3-1 lead in their best-of-seven playoff.

Adam Duvall and Freddie Freeman also homered for Atlanta, which bounced right back from blowing a late lead in an agonizing loss Tuesday and ended its 10-game losing streak at Dodger Stadium.

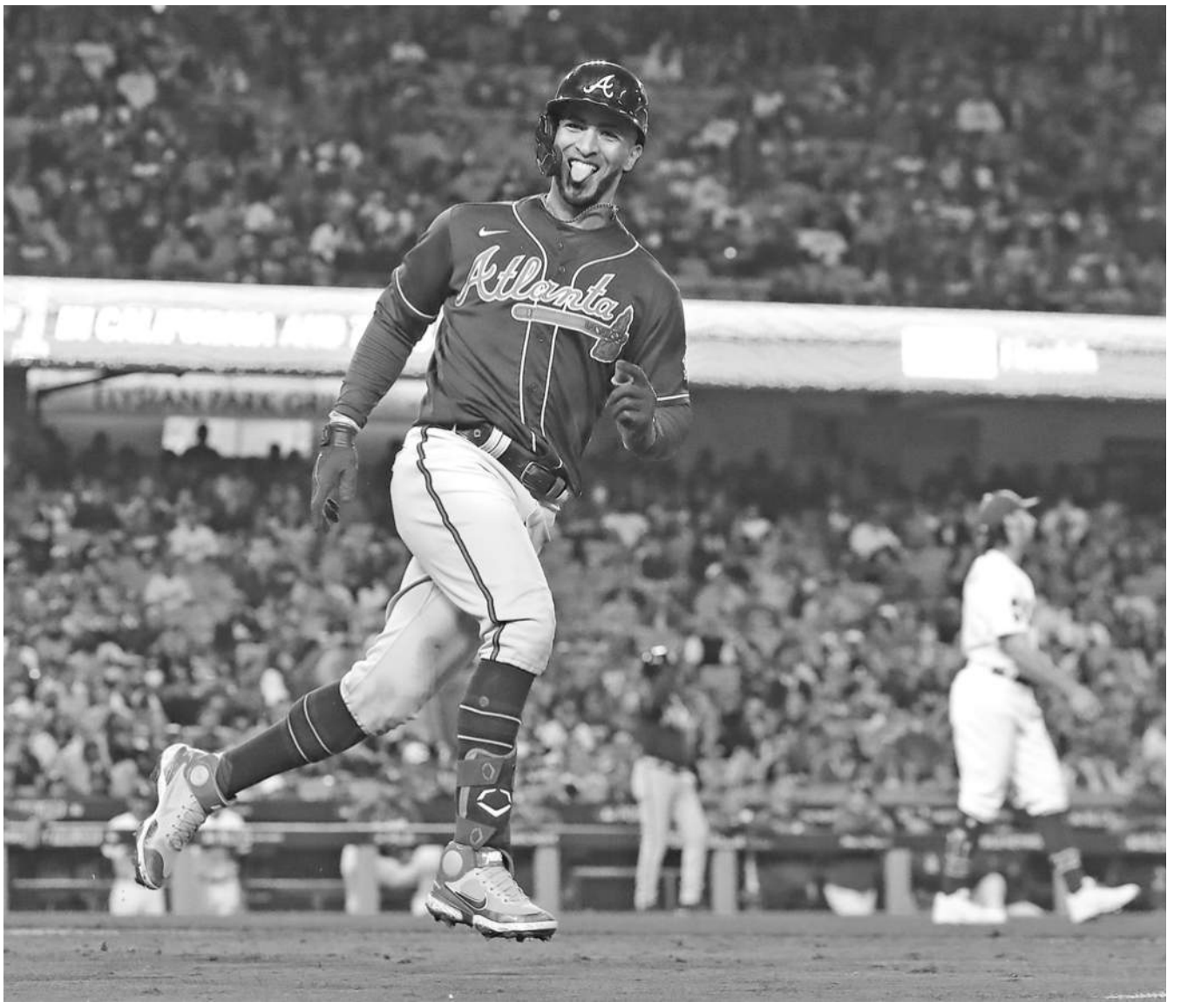
Game 5 is Thursday in Los Angeles, with the Braves one win from their first pennant in 22 years and the defending World Series champions facing elimination. Last year, the Dodgers trailed 0-2 and 1-3 against Atlanta in the NLCS before roaring back to win three straight games at a neutral site in Arlington, Texas.

They'll need to jump-start their offense to have a shot. Their first five hitters — Mookie Betts, Corey Seager, NL batting champion Trea Turner, Will Smith and Gavin Lux — were a combined 0 for 17.

Los Angeles, which had won 18 of 19 at home going back to the regular season, has won six straight postseason elimination games dating to last year.

"I feel good about it," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "We have a very resilient team, a very tough team, and it's not going to get much tougher than facing Max Fried in an elimination game, but we've done it before."

Rosario became the first player to have two four-hit games in a League Championship Series. He drove in four runs and scored three while continuing his torrid postseason hitting, finishing a double short of the cycle. He homered in the second inning, tripled in the third, singled in the fifth and clocked a three-run homer in the ninth.



AP

Atlanta Braves' Eddie Rosario reacts to his three-run home run in the ninth inning off Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Tony Gonsolin, right, during Game 4 of the baseball NL Championship Series, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, in Los Angeles.

"As soon as I hit that second one out, I go, `Oh well, there goes the double,'" Rosario said through a translator.

Rosario was acquired from Cleveland on July 30 as the Braves remade their depleted outfield before the trade deadline.

What a find he's been.

The left fielder has hit safely in every game of this postseason, piling up 14 hits so far — including a walk-off single in Game 2 against the Dodgers. He has struck out only once.

Rosario is 10 for 17 (.588) with two homers and six RBIs in the NLCS.

"He's been looking so good at the plate, hitting balls hard," Freeman said.

Atlanta's four homers tied a postseason franchise record.

Each of the series' first three games was decided by one run in the last two innings. But when it got late this time, the wild-card Dodgers couldn't generate any comeback magic.

Atlanta opener Jesse Chavez combined with Drew Smyly, Chris Martin, A.J. Minter, Tyler Matzek and Will Smith to hold down the Dodgers' offense. Los Angeles didn't get a hit until the fifth and was limited to one the rest of the way. Smyly went 3 1/3 innings for the win.

The Braves wasted no time jumping all over 20-game winner Julio Urías, who gave up three homers in 2 2/3 innings. It was the second time he allowed that many in his career; the first time was in his second major league game in 2016.

Rosario drove an 0-2 pitch into the left-field pavilion leading off the second and Duvall followed with a shot to center, the first time the Braves homered back-to-back in the postseason since Oct. 3, 2002, against San Francisco in Game 2 of a Division Series.

Freeman went deep leading off the third. Two outs later, Rosario tripled to deep right on a two-strike pitch, sliding headfirst into the bag.

"He kind of smiled at me after he hit it in there just because it was one of those things where it just, a hot hitter and he kind of knows where he's going," Urías said through a translator.

Duvall was intentionally walked and Joc Pederson singled, scoring Rosario for a 4-0 lead against Urías.

"The plan was to try to get to him early, try to get some runs on the board, get pitches that we can handle, keep him in the zone, and let the barrel fly," Duvall said.

The Dodgers closed to 5-2 in the fifth on pinch-hitter AJ Pollock's two-out, two-run single. Justin Turner singled for their first hit of the game and Cody Bellinger followed with a single and stolen base.

Freeman's RBI double in the ninth made it 6-2 before Rosario went deep.

Urías didn't record a strikeout until the fourth, when Dansby Swanson and Freeman went down swinging back-to-back to end the left-hander's first clean inning. Urías gave up five runs and eight hits in five innings. He struck out three and walked three.

Urías started on two days' rest, having thrown an inning of relief in Game 2 at Atlanta. He gave up two runs and three hits in that outing, including a tying double to Austin Riley in the eighth.

Duvall robbed Lux of a home run with a leaping catch at the wall in center in the second. Duvall also went to the warning track in the seventh to catch a ball hit by Bellinger, who launched a tying, three-run homer in the Dodgers' eighth-inning rally that helped win Game 3 on Tuesday.

Eovaldi looks to save Red Sox season after bats go quiet

BOSTON (AP)—Following two weak performances at the plate, the Boston Red Sox now turn to Nathan Eovaldi to try to save their season on just two days' rest.

The Red Sox were held hitless for four innings Wednesday by left-hander Framber Valdez and managed only three hits in a 9-1 loss to the Houston Astros that left Boston down 3-2 in the best-of-seven AL Championship Series.

"We've got to win two games to go to the World Series," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said. "That's the bottom line."

Eovaldi came into a tie game in the ninth inning of Game 4 a night earlier, taking the loss when he gave up four runs while getting only two outs.

Now, if he can't shut down the surging Houston offense, and Boston's bats don't break out of their sudden funk, this stirring season will come to an end for the wild-card Red Sox.

Boston has quickly gone from putting up record postseason numbers on offense to the verge of being eliminated.

"I just know from my standpoint, from the hitting standpoint, they've just honestly been executing pitches," Red Sox slugger J.D. Martinez said. "Been really executing pitches. They haven't left anything over the plate, just nibbling."

After a day off, Game 6 is Friday night in Houston, with a winner-take-all Game 7 there on Saturday as well, if necessary.

The 31-year-old Eovaldi made his postseason name in Boston by working six-plus innings of relief, saving the bullpen in an 18-inning loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 3 of the 2018 World Series.

Now, he'll try to be a postseason hero again for the Red Sox by saving their title hopes.

This year, he outpitched New York ace Gerrit Cole when the Red Sox beat the Yankees in the wild-card game. Eovaldi got a no-decision in a Game 3 start against Tampa Bay in the Division Series, then beat the Astros with an effective start in Game 2 last Saturday when Boston hit two grand slams, one in each of the first two innings.

Following six straight games with 10 or more hits — the longest postseason streak in major league history—the Red Sox were shut down for two consecutive games, turning a 2-1 series edge into a 3-2 deficit.

"I feel like this is a team that this is our story," Martinez said, looking to the media. "We've been written off all year. Nobody, I don't think anyone in here either, thought we were going to be here."

Rafael Devers hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, halting a 14-inning scoreless stretch. It was his eighth postseason homer, joining Mickey Mantle, Albert Pujols and Carlos Correa as the only players in postseason history to hit eight before turning 25.

Boston went scoreless for eight innings in Game 4 on Tuesday night after Xander Bogaerts' two-run homer in the first. The Red Sox made 15 outs on the ground against Valdez, with many coming off his hard sinker in the upper-90s mph.

"I think their guy was amazing. He was throwing harder than usual. The ball was moving," Cora said. "We didn't hit the ball hard at all. I think we had two fly balls, if I'm not mistaken, and a home run, right? Credit to him. His sinker was unreal tonight."

In Games 2 and 3, the Red Sox belted a combined three grand slams, becoming the first team with three slams in a postseason series.

But after a blowout victory in Game 3, they were suddenly shut down.

Now, Eovaldi gets another chance to provide postseason magic for Boston.

The Red Sox entered the day with 14 runs scored in just 6 2/3 innings against Houston's starters.

On Wednesday, ace lefty Chris Sale gave them a solid start, holding the Astros to a run—on Yordan Alvarez's homer leading off the second inning—before giving up Alvarez's two-run double that chased him in a five-run sixth.

Sale's career postseason record fell to 1-3 with a 6.35 ERA.

"I was good for five, and then I (stunk) for one," Sale said.

The Red Sox got their first hit of the game on Devers' leadoff single in the fifth. After Valdez hit Martinez on the foot with the next pitch, he got Hunter Renfroe to bounce into a 6-4-3 double play before Alex Verdugo grounded out, ending the inning.

Houston broke it open an inning later and took control of the series.

"It's tough," Sale said. "You know, we came back to Boston exactly where we wanted to be."

‘Decent number’ shows up for national team meeting

By MARK RABAGO
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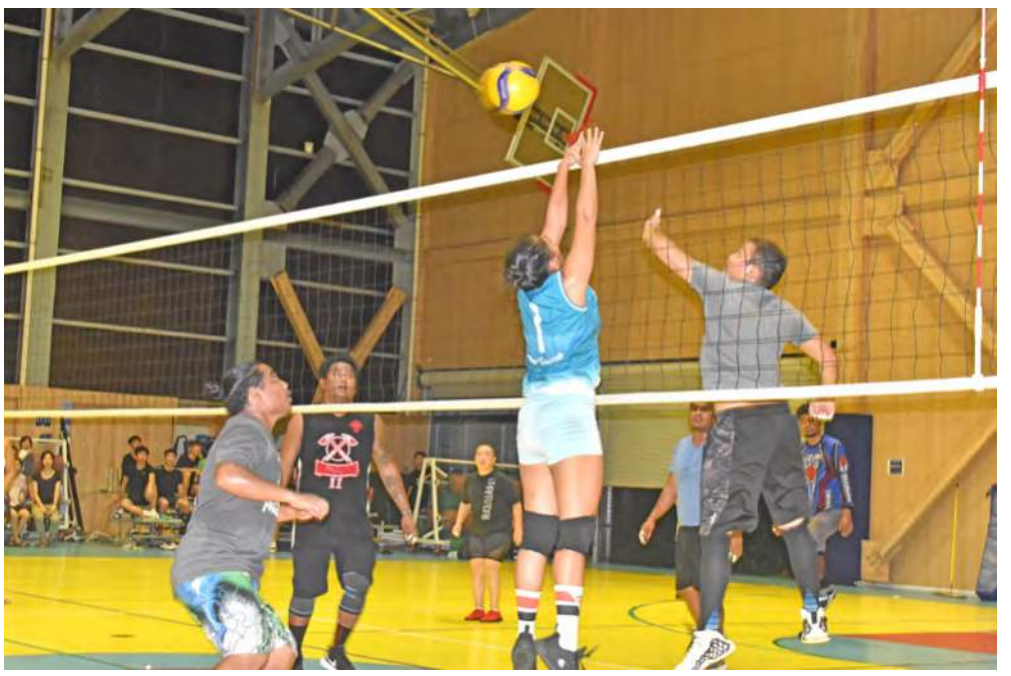
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association held its first organization meeting for next year’s Pacific Mini Games and Micronesian Games last Saturday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMIVA president Somia Quan said she was pretty satisfied with the turnout during the meeting, which gathered interested players and coaches for the beach volleyball competition of the 2022 Mini Games the CNMI will be hosting for the first time as well as the 2022 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands.

“The meetings went really well. We had a big turnout for indoor volleyball, both men and women. We had a decent number show up for beach volleyball and interested coaches as well. It was exciting to see so many interested players respond to the call to try out for our CNMI national team. I’d say we had at least 20 girls and same amount of boys show up for indoor.



MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association’s national team meeting last Saturday attracted around 40 indoor players and nearly 20 beach volleyball players at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Beach was maybe 10 girls and eight boys. There was some overlap as some individuals are interested in trying out for both or haven’t decided yet which sport,” she said.

To this end, the NMIVA head they will be having their first tryout tournament tomorrow, Oct. 23, at Crowne Plaza Resort (formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan).

Quan expects that the tryout would be the start of NMIVA’s buildup to choosing national teams for both beach and indoor volleyball in the Mini Games and Micro Games, respectively, next year.

Aside from beach volleyball, also in the calendar for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games are tennis, weightlifting, va’a, athletics, baseball, badminton, golf, and triathlon.

Any individuals interested in coaching beach volleyball for the Pacific Mini Games or indoor volleyball for the Micronesian Games, contact NMIVA at nmivolleyball@gmail.com.

Team Kio now at 14-0; CNMI bounces back

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Team Kio continued its perfect run in the Island-wide Men’s Bud Light Basketball League after blasting Power Builders, 83-57, last Wednesday at the Tinian Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Seeing action in the second game, Team Kio had four players finish in double figures to score its 14th win against no loss. Power Builders absorbed its 10th loss in 14 games and was out of it from the get-go.

Dustin Sablan led the scoring for Team Kio with 19 points with Robert Reyes adding 18 of his own. Lucio Sanchez and Heinz Cabrera chipped in 12 points apiece in the win. J.R. Libut shone in the loss with his 20 markers, while Michael Castro tossed in 19 markers.

Back from a three-game suspension, Anthony Borja brought the heat the entire game and was nearly matched by Dennis Borja as Team CNMI routed SMA Flyers, 99-74, in the first game. The latter scored 37 points and the former 36 points in an impressive offensive showcase.

It was a total team effort for the now 5-9 team as Estevan Borja hosted a block party and Eric Kwon pretty much scored at will inside the paint before going down with an injury in the third quarter. SMA Flyers, which dropped to 3-10, was paced by the 21 markers of Jason Doria.

First Game

Team CNMI 99 – A. Borja 37, D. Borja 36, Maligson 11, Lizama 10, E. Borja 5.

SMA Flyers 74 – Jas. Doria 21, Opanda 14, Jan. Doria 12, Villagracia 10, Cajilla 5, Lagunay 4.

Scoring by quarters: 13-18, 38-38, 66-55, 99-74.

Second Game

Team Kio 83 – D. Sablan 19, Reyes 18, Sanchez 12, Cabrera 12, P. Sablan 9, B. Sablan 8, King 3.

Power Builders 57 – J. Libut 20, Castro 19, Sanchez 10, D. Libut 4, Dumdum 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 37-29, 58-44, 83-57.

PAIRE

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livering his pair of goals in the second half. He tallied his first in the 40th minute to knot the count, 1-all, and posted the game winner two minutes later. Akoni Matsumoto registered the first goal in the game when he put Kanoa on the board in the 20th minute.

Matansa 5, Kanoa-2 2

Matansa also got its second win of the season after topping Kanoa-2.

Anton Megino starred in the victory after scoring all of Matansa’s goals, while Kanoa-2 drew one goal each from Izaiah Tenorio and Rooney Gil.

GIRL U15
TanHoldings 7, Kanoa 1

TanHoldings extended its streak to four after routing Kanoa.

Tamix Hix led the win after gaining a hat-trick, while Rizza Relucio added two. Julie Anne Capayas and Julie Anne Chavez chipped in one apiece, while Kaleen Leemarvin notched the lone goal for Kanoa.

Southern United 11, Paire 1

Southern United FC also had an easy victory against Paire to keep pace with TanHoldings.

Pia Ngewakl tallied five goals to hand Southern United its third win in four games. Summer Manahane had a pair, while Vaniqa Marie Torres added one.

MPU 9, Shirleys’s 0

Lopsided win was the theme in Week 4 of the girls U15 division contest as MP United also hammered Shirley’s FC.

Siblings Audrey and Aubrey Castro teamed up in MP United’s demolition of Shirley’s after making four goals apiece.

BOYS U15
TanHoldings 4, Kanoa 3

TanHoldings is still unscathed in four games after slipping past Kanoa.

Mark Joseph Patubo logged three goals for TanHoldings, including the go-ahead in the 70th minute. Mark Ryan Costales registered the other goal for TanHoldings, while Markus Toves had twin goals for Kanoa and Ruben Guerrero added one.

Matansa 9, Shirley’s 2

In the second game in the division, Matansa eased past Shirley’s.

It was a team effort for Matansa, as seven players hit the board for the winning team with Anton Megino and Justin Camacho recording two apiece.

MP United 15, Paire 0

In the nightcap, MP United closed out strong after whipping Paire.

Isaiah Barcinas caught fire early for MP United, as he made four of the team’s first five goals to end up with five. Ian Song backed Barcinas after delivering a hat-trick.

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federation officials. Attending international events such as the swimming world championships will keep us abreast of the latest developments in the swimming world, be it coaching techniques, regulations, federation governance, etc. and bring that knowledge back with us to grow and improve the quality of swimming in the CNMI,” added Sikkel.

Kimura was glad that his wards proved him right when he selected the four to compete in the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series that served as qualifiers for the World Championships that started last Sept. 25.

“I recommended everyone as national representatives because of their good personality, good character, hard work, high practice attendance, and eligibility.”

He said Tenorio and Suzuki already proved themselves in regional competitions in the past and are primed for their best performances in the upcoming World Championships.

“Juhn already won gold despite still being young, as he was just 14 years old in the 2019 Micronesian Swimming Championships in Palau. Jinnosuke also won a silver in another event when he was just 13 years old. It just makes sense for these two boys who are already the top swimmers in Micronesia to become national representatives. After only becoming a top swimmer in Micronesia should you be allowed to be a national representative.”

While Tenorio and Suzuki have already proven their mettle, the Litulumar sisters are in the cusp of becoming the best swimmers in the region as well.

“Asaka also won many medals in Micronesian Swimming Championships. However, Micronesia’s top swimmer at the time was Aika Watanabe of the CNMI. Asaka couldn’t beat Aika in any of the events. But after three years, Asaka has worked hard and I believe she surpassed the Aika of that time. If the Micronesian Swimming Championships is held now, Asaka will definitely win some events. From that point of view, I think it’s all but natural that Asaka be selected as a national representative,” said Kimura.

“At the Micronesian Swimming Championships, Shoko won many medals but her division was a younger class because she was still 12 years old. Three years after that, Shoko has grown up and has been improving greatly. I think that was proven to everyone in the qualifier race last Sept. 25,” he added.

Aside from their prowess in the water, Kimura said Tenorio, Suzuki, and the Litulumar sisters have also slowly become leaders for Tsunami Saipan.

“Juhn is now the captain of our club and organizes a team of over 60 swimmers in total. Jinnosuke assists Juhn as a vice captain. Asaka has become the leader of our girl swimmers. Shoko has also helped Asaka very well.”

The Tsunami Saipan coach is also happy that Sikkel will be traveling with them to the World Championships.

“Richard is a very respectable person. I’m so happy with him going to Abu Dhabi. Richard is also head coach of SSC. We are currently working on combined practices. Tsunami Saipan swimmers participate in SSC practices and SSC swimmers participate in Tsunami Saipan practices. We have already done it a couple of times. A very good effect appears in both club’s swimmers. We look forward to building a good relationship between the two clubs as well as NMI Swimming in the future,” said Kimura.

YOUTH

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it’s more fun than playing at my house. Badminton is fun to play and getting awards is a great bonus,” she added.

In the boys doubles, Bautista partnered with Kyle Andre Manuel in defeating Ngotel and Peter John White, 21-10, 21-14, in the finals.

Angieleuysha Punzalan and Angel Jayce Reyes then took home the girls doubles after upending Mikyla Cunanan and Riesha De Guzman in the championship, 21-20, 21-14.

Kyle Salcedo earlier won the championship of the boys singles after beating Bautista, 21-13, 18-21, 11-4, in the finals.

Tournament director and CNMI national player Janelle Pangilinan gave kudos to all who took part in the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 and also gave the winners a much-deserved pat in the back.

“I would like to congratulate all the players who participated in this tournament and all the winners who have pushed themselves to reach their success,” she said.

Pangilinan added that the tournament served as a good training ground for aspirants for the national team that will suit up for Team CNMI in the Northern Marianas Pacific Games 2022.

“In preparation for the Mini Games this tournament not only showed us each and everyone’s skill individually but also showed how committed they are in playing the sport. Choosing the Top 6 women and Top 6 men for the CNMI National Team needs a great deal of commitment,” she said.

In all, about 70 players competed in the TakeCare Insurance Co., Inc.-sponsored tournament.

Julius Randle, Knicks outlast Brown, Celtics in double OT

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Sports

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4 formally named to World Champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI team bound for the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships this December in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates pose for a group photo. From left, Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, Shoko Litulumar, Asaka Litulumar, Juhn Tenorio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, and Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation representative and Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jinnosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, and sisters Shoko and Asaka Litulumar were formally named to the CNMI delegation to the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships this December in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation held a meeting earlier this month and the four Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers, who topped a series of open water qualifiers, were named to the CNMI team. They will be joined by Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura and Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel, who will serve as NMISF representative in the meet in the UAE.

"NMISF has named the four swimmers who will be representing the CNMI during the World Championships in Abu Dhabi. Jinnosuke, Juhn, Asaka, and Shoko were the top performers in the Triple Crown qualifier and were deemed most deserving of a spot on the national squad based on their performance and other selection criteria set by the NMISF," said Sikkel.

He added that NMISF is confident that Suzuki, Tenorio, and the Litulumar sisters will perform to the best of their abilities when they don the CNMI's colors in the World Championships.

"I have no doubt they will put forth their best effort to represent the islands on the world stage. Aside from it being a great opportunity and honor for these swimmers to participate in one of the largest FINA events, it is also a wonderful learning experience for us coaches and national

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Youth served in TakeCare Badminton Open

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Junior mixed doubles champions Kaya Braxton, left, and Gregory Ngotel during the awards ceremony of TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The future of badminton in the Commonwealth is secure as several junior players shone during the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 held over the past several weeks at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the mixed doubles, Kaya Braxton teamed up with Gregory Ngotel to beat Kiesha De Guzman and Marlon Bautista Jr., 21-20, 21-16. It was sort of revenge for Braxton and Ngotel as they earlier lost to the same pair in the semifinals, 9-11, 9-11. Relegated to the loser's bracket, the eventual champions bounced back and punched their finals ticket with a 11-6, 10-11, 11-10 win over Prince Calvo and Angel Reyes.

Braxton said it was an unbelievable feeling winning the mixed doubles after losing in the semifinals.

"I felt glad and happy and I thought we wouldn`t win, but actually it came true. My dream now is to become a famous badminton player," she said.

The 11-year-old Grace Christian Academy student said she had a perfect doubles partner in Ngotel.

"He is a very nice person. He was the person that helped me score a lot. I was really glad that I had a partner like him," said Braxton, who began playing the sport three years ago when she was 8 years old.

Aside from badminton, Braxton also lists swimming and kendo as her favorite sports. She, however, admits that badminton is really growing on her.

"It has many people and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paire Football Club's Rodney Junior Tomei dribbles away from MP United Pink defenders during their co-ed U12 division game in the 2021 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire, TanHoldings keep streaks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club won the battle of unbeaten teams in the co-ed U12 division in the 2021 NMIFA Youth Fall League, while TanHoldings also kept its clean record in the girls and boys U15 plays after the Week 4 matches last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire stretched its winning run to three following a 4-1 triumph over erstwhile undefeated MP United Pink. Rodney Junior Tomei scored two goals for Paire, which is now alone at the top spot of the team standings in the co-ed U12 division. Sibling Jayten Lee and Jazzroy Lee Villagomez added one goal apiece for the leading squad, while Moshe Sikkel made the lone goal for MP United Pink, which dropped to a 2-1-1 win-draw-loss mark to tie MP United Blue in second place.

MP United Blue 2, Kanoa-1 1

MP United notched win No. 2 after nosing out Kanoa-1.

Aiden Camacho handed MP United Blue the come-from-behind win after de-

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